MIKIYO TSUDA PRESENTS

THE DAY OF REVOLUTION

'2

DIGITAL MANGA
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THE DAY OF REVOLUTION 2

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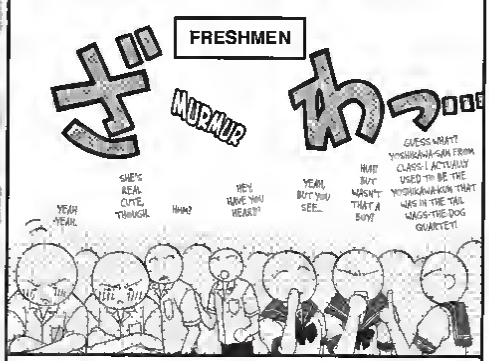
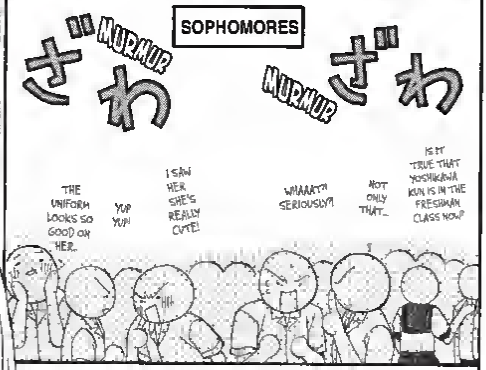
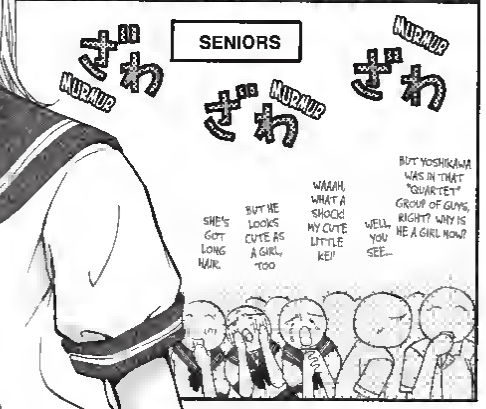
CONTINUED
THE DAY OF REVOLUTION

びふぉー
before
あふたー
after
FOR MORE INFO, REFER TO THE FIRST "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION" OUT NOW FROM DMP!
DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, KEI YOSHIKAWA HAS CHANGED HIS APPEARANCE AND NAME TO BECOME MEGUMI YOSHIKAWA (16). NOW, ALL SHE WANTS IS TO START LIFE OVER DISCREETLY, IN QUIET ANONYMITY...
...BUT, SEVERAL MONTHS LATER -

...HER "SECRET" WAS SOME-HOW THE TALK OF THE ENTIRE SCHOOL ...


FRESHMEN
ざわっ...
MURMUR
YEAH YEAH.
SHE'S REAL CUTE, THOUGH.
HUH?
HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD?
YEAH, BUT YOU SEE...
HUH? BUT WASN'T THAT A BOY?
GUESS WHAT? YOSHIKAWA-KUN FROM CLASS 1 ACTUALLY USED TO BE THE YOSHIKAWA-KUN THAT WAS IN THE TAIL WAGS THE DOG QUARTET!





AND, AS FOR THE REASON...
GEE, I WONDER WHOSE FAULT IT IS, HMMM -?
HUH? NO IDEA.
HM?
YOU GUYS, THAT'S WHO!
YOU GUYS, WITH ALL YOUR NOTORIETY! IT'S BECAUSE YOU INSIST ON HANGING AROUND ME THAT MY SECRET GOT OUT!!

I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!
WHAT AM I, A SIDESHOW FREAK?
IS THAT HER?
HO-HO!!
NOW EVERY TIME I WALK DOWN THE HALL, I GET SECRETIVE GLANCES!
LOOKY-LOOS COME TO GAWK AT ME DURING BREAK PERIOD...
Look Look Look
...SOMEHOW, I'VE ENDED UP HAVING TO EAT LUNCH UP HERE ON THE ROOF EVERY DAY WITH YOU GUYS.
HA HA HA HA HA
NOT ONLY THAT - IN ORDER TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE PRYING EYES...
WHAT? WHY?!
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE, ANYWAY.
ALL I WANTED WAS TO START MY LIFE OVER QUIETLY, IN PEACE!!

うんうん
YUP YUP!
NOD コク
NOD コク
RIGHT?
EVEN IF WE HADN'T DONE ANYTHING, YOU WOULD HAVE DRAWN ATTENTION TO YOURSELF AND BEEN FOUND OUT ANYWAY.
I DON'T THINK YOU REALIZE, BUT YOU REALLY STAND OUT.
MEGUMI! HURRY UP AND EAT - LUNCHTIME IS ALMOST OVER!
EVEN YOU, MAKOTO...
よろり
SLUMP...
UGH...
!!
IT'S TRUE. THERE WERE EVEN PHOTOS OF YOU IN CIRCULATION BACK WHEN YOU WERE "KEI."
YOU EVEN HAD YOUR OWN PERSONAL FAN CLUB
MUNCH MUNCH

はーっ
SIGH...
I FEEL LIKE NOTHING GOOD HAS HAPPENED TO ME EVER SINCE I BECAME A GIRL.
あーっ
ARRGH!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, NOTHING GOOD HAS HAPPENED...!
GAWKED AT BY OTHERS...
HIT ON BY YOU GUYS, WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE MY FRIENDS...
EVEN ASSAULTED BY NAKAGAWA, THE UPPERCLASSMAN I NEVER GOT ALONG WITH!
...
...
マ〜マ〜
NOW NOW!
O... OH YEAH, SPEAKING OF WHICH...
...HAS NAKAGAWA SEMPAI BOTHERED YOU AT ALL SINCE THEN?
HUH?

WELL...IT'S STRANGE.
I HAPPENED TO BUMP INTO HIM IN THE HALL THE OTHER DAY, BUT...
FACE-TO-FACE
AH
AH
.. AS SOON AS HE SAW ME, HIS FACE WENT WHITE...
AND HE RAN AWAY LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL!
ひくっ
TWITCH
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
HUH?
I MEAN, I KNOW THAT TIME HE ASSAULTED ME...
...I STRUCK HIM FULL FORCE IN THE FACE AND GROIN, BUT...

GLANCE...
ちらーり…
HUH!
はっ
...ALL THE SAME, HIS REACTION SEEMED A BIT TOO EXTREME FOR...
YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT, DO YOU...?
I HAVE A HUNCH...

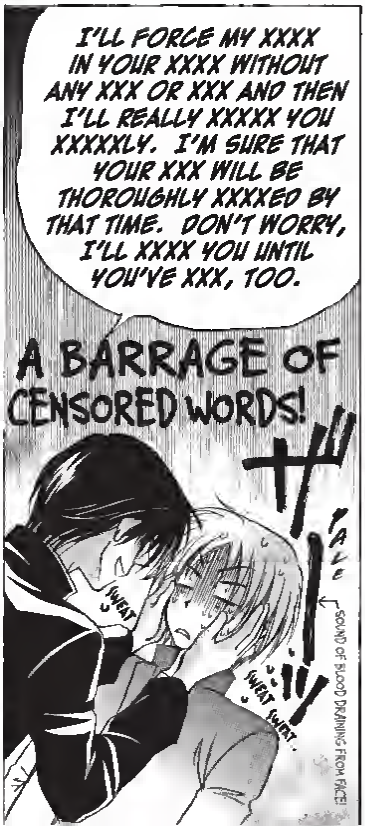
FOLLOWING THE INFAMOUS EVENT
SHUT UP! I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND! I'M CHOOSING MAKOTO!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, MAKOTO!
CLACK
OH, DEAR.
THE TRAUMA OF BEING ASSAULTED HAS INCREASED HER RESISTANCE EVEN MORE.
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...
IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, THIS MAY TURN INTO A FULL-BLOWN PHOBIA OF MEN ALTOGETHER.
SHE SAYS SHE'S CHOSEN MAKOTO-CHAN, BUT...
...YOU'VE MADE A BIG MISTAKE ASSAULTING OUR KEI.
I THINK A LITTLE PUNISHMENT IS IN ORDER, JUST SO YOU NEVER THINK ABOUT DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS AGAIN.
GLANCE
EITHER WAY, SEMPAI.
JUMP!

IT'S TRUE... HE DOES SEEM PRETTY TENACIOUS.
HE KEEPS COMING UP TO THE ROOF TO CHALLENGE US.
WHAT SHALL WE DO? IF OUR FISTS WON'T DO IT, MAYBE BLACKMAIL WILL...?
WITH AN EMBARRASSING INCIDENT HE WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT...? HMM, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY DIRT...
THEN WHAT IF WE HELP CREATE THAT EMBARRASSING INCIDENT"?
THEN WE COULD BLACKMAIL HIM.
WHAT - YOU GONNA BEAT ME UP OR SOMETHING?
HEH!
I'LL TELL YOU RIGHT NOW - THAT'S NOT GONNA STOP ME!
...
...
I'M NOT REAL HAPPY ABOUT RESORTING TO THIS KIND OF TACTIC, BUT IF IT'S FOR KEI'S SAKE.
PLUS, A LITTLE PAYBACK.
YEAH, OKAY.

CHAMP
BRO
WH.
WHAT?
H... HMPH!
NO DEAL!
NAKAGAWA SEMPAI, I HAVE A REQUEST...
びくっ
WILL YOU PROMISE NEVER TO LAY A HAND ON KEI EVER AGAIN?
LOOM
すっ LIFT
THAT'S A SHAME... BECAUSE IF YOU CAN'T GRANT US THIS LITTLE FAVOR...

...I'LL HAVE TO VIOLATE YOU... OKAY?
GRIN

AAAAAHHH!!!
WHAP

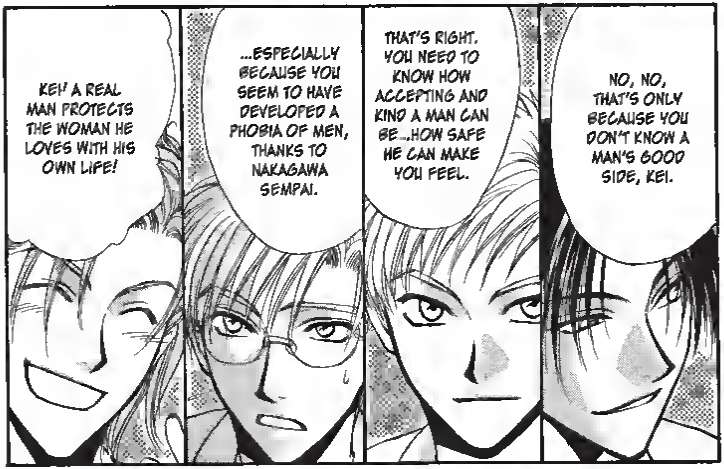

I'LL FORCE MY XXXX IN YOUR XXXX WITHOUT ANY XXX OR XXX AND THEN I'LL REALLY XXXXX YOU XXXXXLY. I'M SURE THAT YOUR XXX WILL BE THOROUGHLY XXXXED BY THAT TIME. DON'T WORRY, I'LL XXXX YOU UNTIL YOU'VE XXX, TOO.
A BARRAGE OF CENSORED WORDS!
PALE
SOUND OF BLOOD DRAINING FROM FACE!
SWEAT
SWEAT
SWEAT

はぁはぁ
WHOOSH!

THEN YOU'LL GRANT US OUR LITTLE FAVOR, WON'T YOU?
NAKAGAWA SEMPAI.
SMILE
TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE
YOU OKAY?
PRESENT DAY.
NEVERMIND...
I SORTA HAVE AN IDEA ALREADY
YEAH - WANNA HEAR ABOUT IT?
HA HA

NEVER MIND THAT, KEI - DO YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE ONCE SUMMER VACATION STARTS?
HUH?
WE CAN ALL GO OUT TOGETHER IF YOU WANT, BUT THE SUMMER'S LONG AND WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME.
WHY NOT TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DATE EACH OF US INDIVIDUALLY IN TURNS AND GET TO KNOW US BETTER?
HUH?
HUH?
W... WAIT A MINUTE...
JUST A
OH!
YEAH, I WANNA DO THAT, TOO! I WANNA GO OUT WITH KEI, JUST THE TWO OF US! ♡
Y...YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, YOU KNOW!
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GO TO THE PLANETARIUM.
ALREADY HAS VENUE PLANNED
DON'T DECIDE WITHOUT ME!!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HANDLE ALL THAT?!
LET'S SEE, THERE'S SEVEN DAYS IN A WEEK, SO THE EXTRA DAYS WE CAN USE FOR GROUP DATES...
THEN, SHALL WE ASSIGN OURSELVES SPECIFIC DAYS TO BE WITH KEI?
LIKE WHO GETS KEI WHAT DAY EVERY WEEK.
HEY!

AND ANYWAY, I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU - I CHOOSE MAKOTO!
SO THERE'S NO POINT IN MY DATING ANY OF YOU!!


KEI! A REAL MAN PROTECTS THE WOMAN HE LOVES WITH HIS OWN LIFE!
...ESPECIALLY BECAUSE YOU SEEM TO HAVE DEVELOPED A PHOBIA OF MEN, THANKS TO NAKAGAWA SEMPAI.
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU NEED TO KNOW HOW ACCEPTING AND KIND A MAN CAN BE...HOW SAFE HE CAN MAKE YOU FEEL.
NO, NO, THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW A MAN'S GOOD SIDE, KEI.

AND FOR THAT TO HAPPEN...
WE NEED YOU TO SEE HOW GREAT A MAN CAN REALLY BE.

おうっ!!
OO-RAH!
...THE ONLY WAY IS TO DATE, DATE, DATE THE WHOLE SUMMER THROUGH!
ぱくぱく
FLAP FLAP
WHA...
WHA...
えっ!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "SEE HOW GREAT A MAN CAN BE"?!
I LIVED AS A DUDE FOR FIFTEEN YEARS!!
えっ!!
WAAAH!
うゃーん
MAKOTOOO!!
THERE THERE

I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU GUYS FEEL ABOUT WANTING TO BE WITH MEGUMI, BUT...
IF ALL FOUR OF YOU KEEP PRESSURING HER AT ONCE LIKE THAT, IT'LL ONLY HAVE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES
TELL THEM! LET 'EM HAVE IT, MAKOTO!
SHE'S ALREADY PARANOID ENOUGH AS IT IS, THANKS TO THE INCIDENT WITH NAKAGAWA.
AND I'M SURE YOUR WORRIES THAT SHE MAY NEVER RECOVER IS ALSO ONE OF THE REASONS FOR PUTTING THE MOVES ON HER SO AGGRESSIVELY.
BUT!
IF YOU REALLY LOVE MEGUMI, YOU NEED TO THINK OF HER FEELINGS FIRST!
IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT... YOU'LL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH ME!
GLOW
OH, MAKOTO...
AND BESIDES, I'M THE ONE WITH SOLE CLAIM TO MEGUMI!
AT THE MOMENT.
DON'T FORGET!

MAKOTO ?!
I DON'T SEE WHY NOT. AFTER ALL, I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE SO OVERPROTECTIVE OF MEGUMI THAT SHE BECOMES AFRAID TO WALK ALONE AT NIGHT.
THEN - ON DAYS WHEN KEI HAS NO PLANS WITH YOU, WE'RE ALLOWED TO SEE HER AS LONG AS WE HAVE NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES?
H... HEY, YOU GUYS...
OH, YOU'RE VERY WELCOME.
I WONDER
ほほほほほ HOHOHOHOHOHOHO
ふふふふ HEHEHEHEHEH
THEN I GUESS I'LL JUST SAY THANK YOU, FOR NOW.
COME ON NOW, WE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT
I SAID I AIN'T GOING AND I AIN'T GOING!!
QUIT DECIDING ON YOUR OWN!
NEVER! YOU HEAR?! NOT WITH YOU GUYS... EVER!!
WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT, KEI. WE'LL COME TO PICK YOU UP ONCE VACATION STARTS.
WHA?!
?!
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT

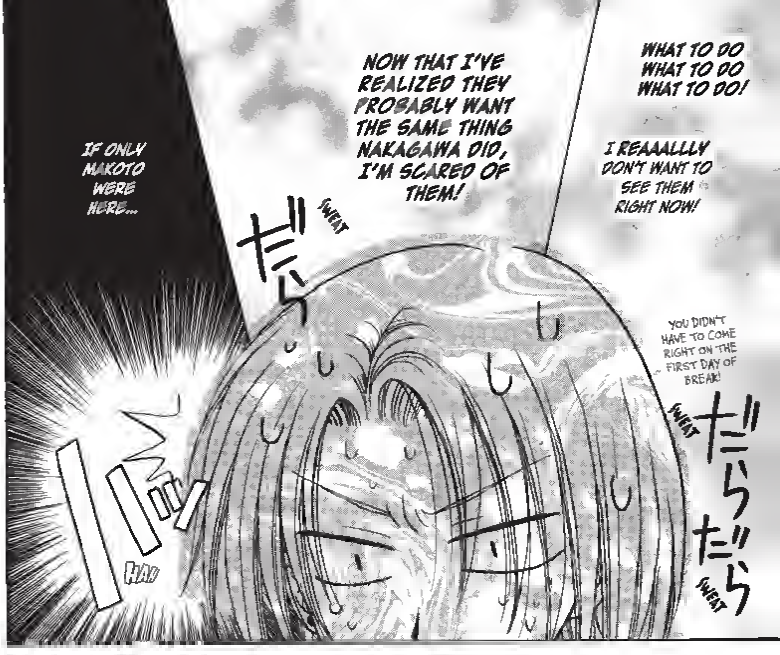
SUMMER VACATION BEGINS
ZEEEEK...
ZEEK ZEEK
NEEEEN
IT'S...
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT AND HAVE FUN WITH THEM...
BUT...

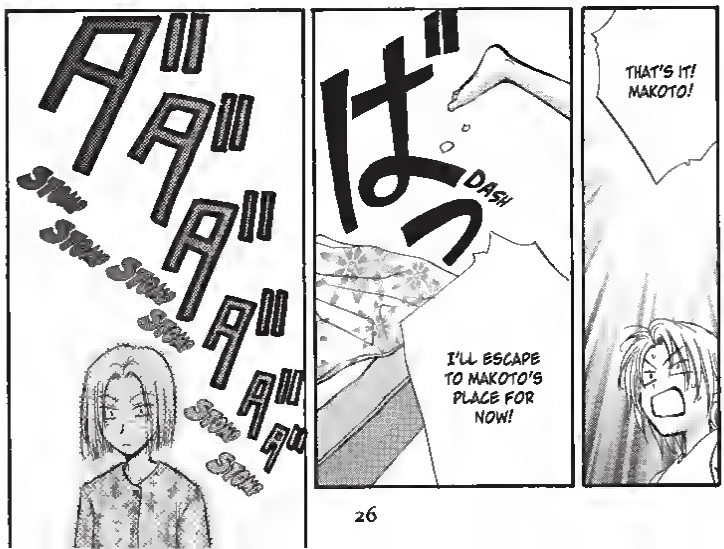
...WHEN IT'S CALLED A "DATE", I JUST...
TO ME, THEY'RE STILL THE SAME GUYS I USED TO KNOW...
BUT WHEN THEY LOOK AT ME...
...I CAN TELL BY THE LOOK IN THEIR EYES...
...THEY'RE SEEING ME AS A GIRL.
...WITH A MAN'S EYES... JUST LIKE NAKAGAWA'S ...
!!
...BUT TO TAKE YOU BY FORCE...
JUST A STRONGER THAN I AM...
SHIVER!

AAAH! NOOO! NO WAAY!! NEVERRR - !!!
WHIP
DO THOSE GUYS WANT TO DO STUFF LIKE THAT WITH ME, TOO...?
MOST LIKELY...
...
...

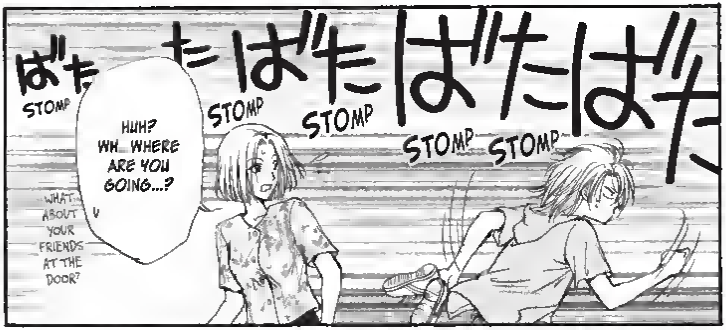
HAHAHAHA
I CAN'T...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EVEN CONSIDER BEING ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH A DUDE!
ESPECIALLY NOT WITH THOSE GUYS... NOT AFTER WE USED TO BE FRIENDS AND ALL! IT'S UNIMAGINABLE...
WHAT ARE THEY THINKING...?

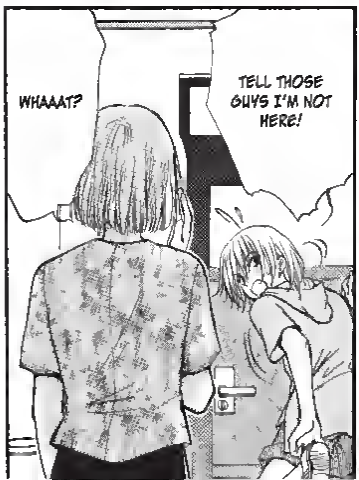
DING DONG
IT CAN'T BE...
...
...
THEY KNOW ME FROM BACK WHEN I WAS STILL MALE!! I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY CAN STILL TRY TO SEDUCE ME!!
THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING WRONG WITH THEM!
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT!
THERE'S NO WAY...
IT'S PROBABLY A SOLICI-TOR OR SOMETHING.
IT CAN'T BE THEM...
OR A PACKAGE DELIVERY
EEEEEK!
MEGUMI... SHINMEI-KUN AND HIS FRIENDS ARE HERE TO SEE YOU!
COME DOWN AND SAY HELLO.
SKID!


IF ONLY MAKOTO WERE HERE...
NOW THAT I'VE REALIZED THEY PROBABLY WANT THE SAME THING NAKAGAWA DID, I'M SCARED OF THEM!
WHAT TO DO WHAT TO DO WHAT TO DO!
I REAAALLLY DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM RIGHT NOW!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME RIGHT ON THE FIRST DAY OF BREAK!
SWEAT
SWEAT
SWEAT
HA!

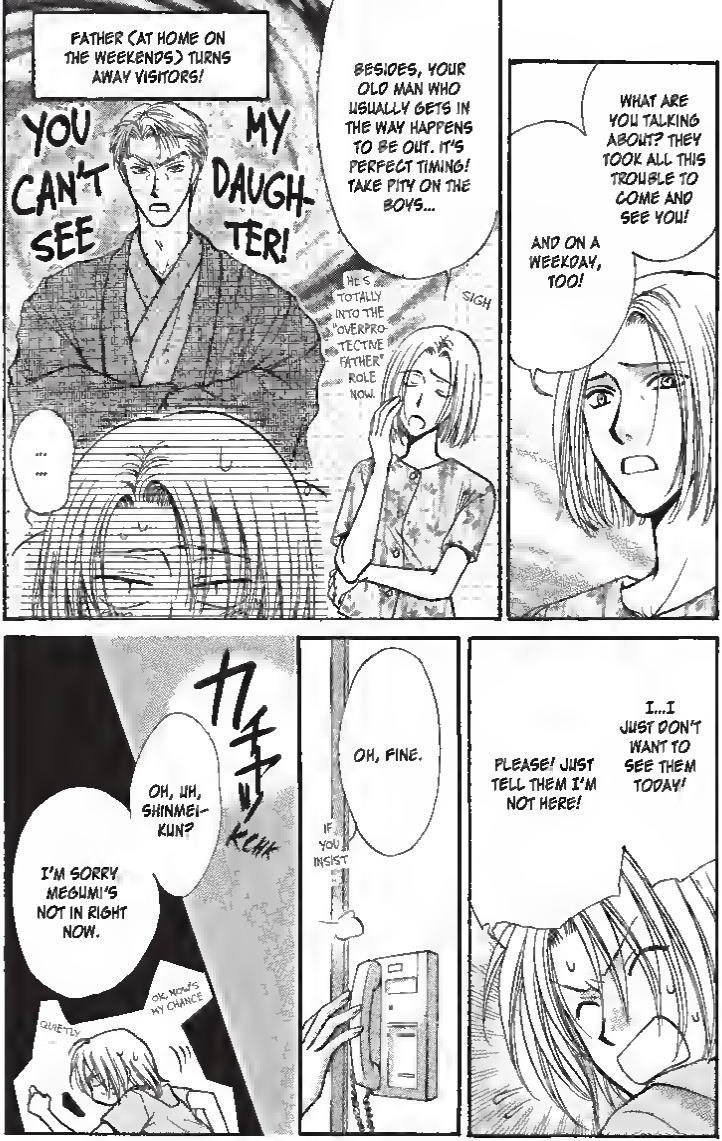

THAT'S IT! MAKOTO!
DASH
I'LL ESCAPE TO MAKOTO'S PLACE FOR NOW!
STOW STOW STOW STOW STOW STOW STOW

ばたばたばた
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
MEGUMI, CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE QUI...


ばた
たばたばたばた
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
HUH? WH... WHERE ARE YOU GOING...?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS AT THE DOOR?


WHAAAT?
TELL THOSE GUYS I'M NOT HERE!

TO MAKOTO'S PLACE!


FATHER CAT HOME ON THE WEEKENDS) TURNS AWAY VISITORS!
YOU CAN'T SEE MY DAUGHTER!
...
...
BESIDES, YOUR OLD MAN WHO USUALLY GETS IN THE WAY HAPPENS TO BE OUT. IT'S PERFECT TIMING! TAKE PITY ON THE BOYS...
HE'S TOTALLY INTO THE "OVERPROTECTIVE FATHER" ROLE NOW.
SIGH
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THEY TOOK ALL THIS TROUBLE TO COME AND SEE YOU!
AND ON A WEEKDAY, TOO!
I...I JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM TODAY!
PLEASE! JUST TELL THEM I'M NOT HERE!
OH, FINE.
IF YOU INSIST
KCHK
OH, UH, SHINMEI-KUN?
I'M SORRY, MEGUMI'S NOT IN RIGHT NOW.
QUIETLY
OK, NOW'S MY CHANCE

YES, THAT'S RIGHT. SHE'S JUST LEAVING THROUGH THE BACK DOOR NOW.
YES. I'M SURE YOU CAN CATCH HER IF YOU GO TO THE STREET AROUND BACK.
GOOD LUCK!
オホホホホ
WHAT ARE YOU TELLING THEM FOR?!
!DIOT!!
BAM
GRAP!
THAT OLD BAG-
THUMP
LEAP...

HEY! THERE SHE IS!!
ACK!
CRAP!
すたこら
SCURRY
YIKES...
さっさっ
SCURRY

WAIT! KEI, WHY ARE YOU...
DON'T ASK ME WHY I'M RUNNING FROM YOU!
IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING TO ANSWER!
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED SO FRUMPY?!
PERSONALLY, I THINK A SKIRT IS BEST.
I'LL COORDINATE THE SUPER-CUTEST OUTFIT FOR YOU!
IN THOSE CLOTHES, YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM WHEN YOU WERE A BOY...
YOU'RE A GIRL NOW SO YOU'VE GOT TO DRESS UP MORE!
THESE FOOLS...
AREN'T THEY MISSING THE POINT?
DON'T YOU CARE WHY I'M RUNNING FROM YOU?

パシ
FLIK
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE CHASING AFTER ME FOR?!
SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE!!
JERKS!
ぶろろろろ
VRROOOM...
OH! IT'S RED.
ぴゅう
FWOOSH
N... NOW'S MY CHANCE...!
I'M OUTTA HERE!

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S BACK OFF FOR TODAY.
WON'T WE JUST SCARE HER OFF FURTHER IF WE PUSH HER TOO FAR?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? NINE OUT OF TEN, SHE'S GOING TO MAKOTO-CHAN'S HOUSE.
SHALL WE CHASE HER?
OH, GOOD THINKING! LET'S GO!
LET'S GO PAY OUR RESPECTS AND MAKE HER AN ALLY.
DEAR OLD MUM.
AT ANY RATE, IT LOOKS LIKE THE MOM IS ON OUR SIDE.
DING DONG

RATTLE RATTLE...
カラカラ...
OH...
がばあっ
WAAAH, MAKOTOOOO! THE GUYS... THE GUYS, THEY...
MAKOTO! OPEN UP. THOSE GUYS ARE AFTER ME!
HURRY UP!
YES, WHO...
OH, MEGUMI? WAIT, I'LL OPEN IT NOW.
ウィーン...
WEEEN
ガチャ
CLICK

...HUH?
PAT
ペた。
HUH? "WHOA"?
すーすり
すーすり
HUH?!
WHOA!

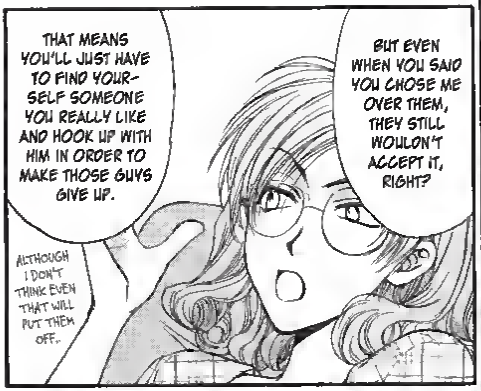
WHO IS THIS?
PITTER PATTER PITTER
ぱたぱたぱた…
OH...
MEGUMI
...
ぱっ
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING STUCK SO CLOSE TOGETHER?
OH..
I MISTOOK HIM FOR YOU AND LATCHED ONTO HIM.
BUT... UM...

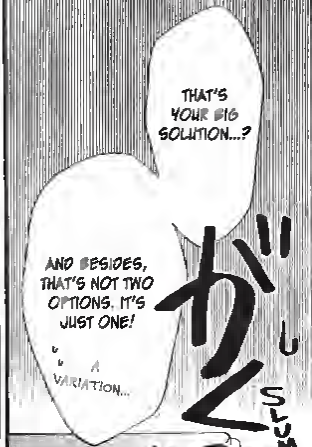
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
HA!
SO, THEY CAME BARGING IN ON YOU ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF SUMMER VACATION?
THEY DIDN'T LISTEN TO A WORD I SAID.
...AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D HAMMERED THE POINT HOME TO THEM.
THOSE GUYS!
CLINK
カラ

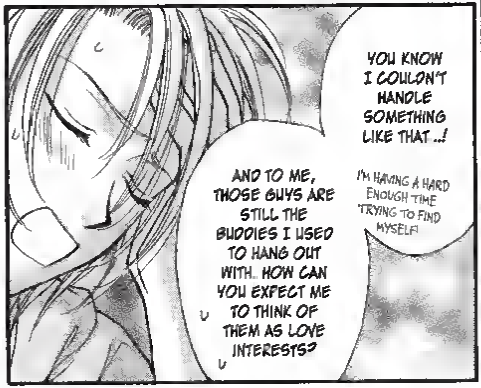
IN THE END, THOSE GUYS WANT THE SAME THING NAKAGAWA WANTED, RIGHT?
SHIVER!
BUT...! BUT I CAN'T...!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ACT THE SAME AROUND THEM AS YOU DID WHEN YOU WERE FRIENDS?
OH, DEAR... THAT WHOLE INCIDENT WITH TAISEI NAKAGAWA HAS REALLY TRAUMATIZED HER.
OBVIOUSLY.
URRGH.. URRGH.
I CAN'T DO IT!
WAAAH
うわーん
WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN JUST TREAT THEM CASUALLY!
I HATE IT—

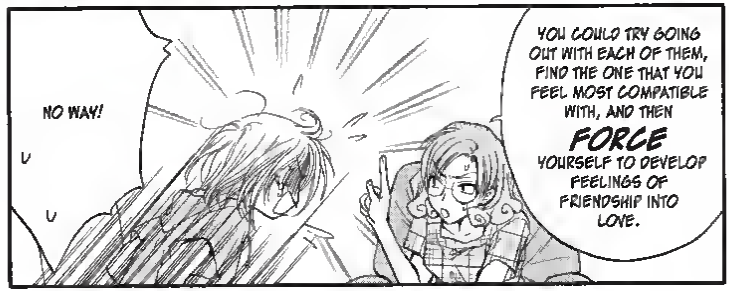
YOU KNOW, MEGUMI, RIGHT NOW YOU'RE OVERLY SENSITIVE BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH NAKAGAWA SEMPAI.
NOT ALL MEN ARE OUT TO SEXUALLY ASSAULT YOU, UNDERSTAND?
ESPECIALLY IF IT'S A GIRL THEY REALLY LOVE!
BUT...
NAKAGAWA CAME AFTER ME THE MOMENT HE FOUND OUT I WAS A GIRL
MUMBLE
OH, MY
TAISEI NAKAGAWA THAT H*ANIMAL!!
ARE YOU LISTENING, MEGUMI? NAKAGAWA IS A HEAD CASE.
HE'S GOT NO SHRED OF COMMON DECENCY OR SELF-CONTROL. NOT ONLY HAS HE GOT A SCREW LOOSE..THE SCREW'S COMPLETELY GONE.
YOU CAN'T USE HIM AS THE STAN DARD, GOT IT?

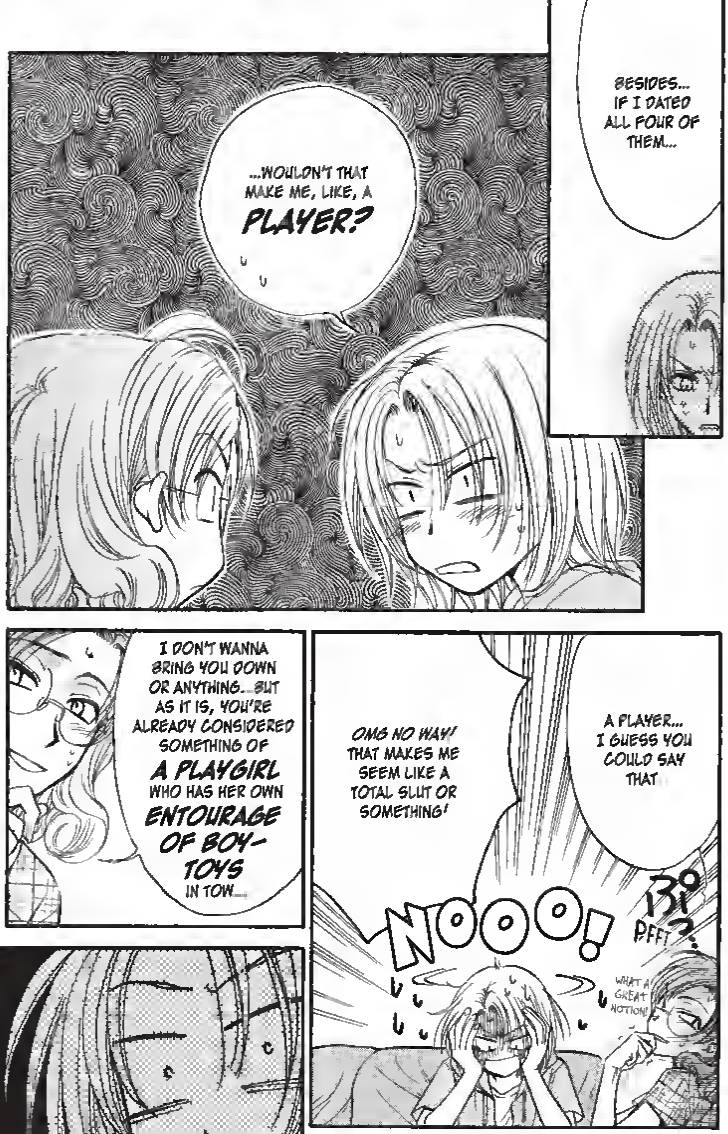
AND AS PROOF OF THAT, THOSE FOUR MAY SWEET-TALK YOU BUT THEY HAVEN'T LAID A HAND ON YOU, HAVE THEY?
ON...
Y... YOU'RE RIGHT...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
SO, DON'T THINK TOO DEEPLY ABOUT IT, AND JUST ACT NATURAL.
ULTIMATELY, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT CHOOSES. YOU'RE THE ONE IN CONTROL.
...BUT, HAVING SAID THAT...
WHAT ARE THEY?!
SLATTER
...IF YOU REALLY WANT THEM TO STOP WOOING YOU, THERE ARE ONLY TWO OPTIONS.
GET YOURSELF AN OFFICIAL BOYFRIEND. CHOOSE ONE OF THOSE FOUR, OR ELSE SOMEONE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.


THAT MEANS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND YOURSELF SOMEONE YOU REALLY LIKE AND HOOK UP WITH HIM IN ORDER TO MAKE THOSE GUYS GIVE UP.
ALTHOUGH I DON'T THINK EVEN THAT WILL PUT THEM OFF.
BUT EVEN WHEN YOU SAID YOU CHOSE ME OVER THEM, THEY STILL WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT, RIGHT?

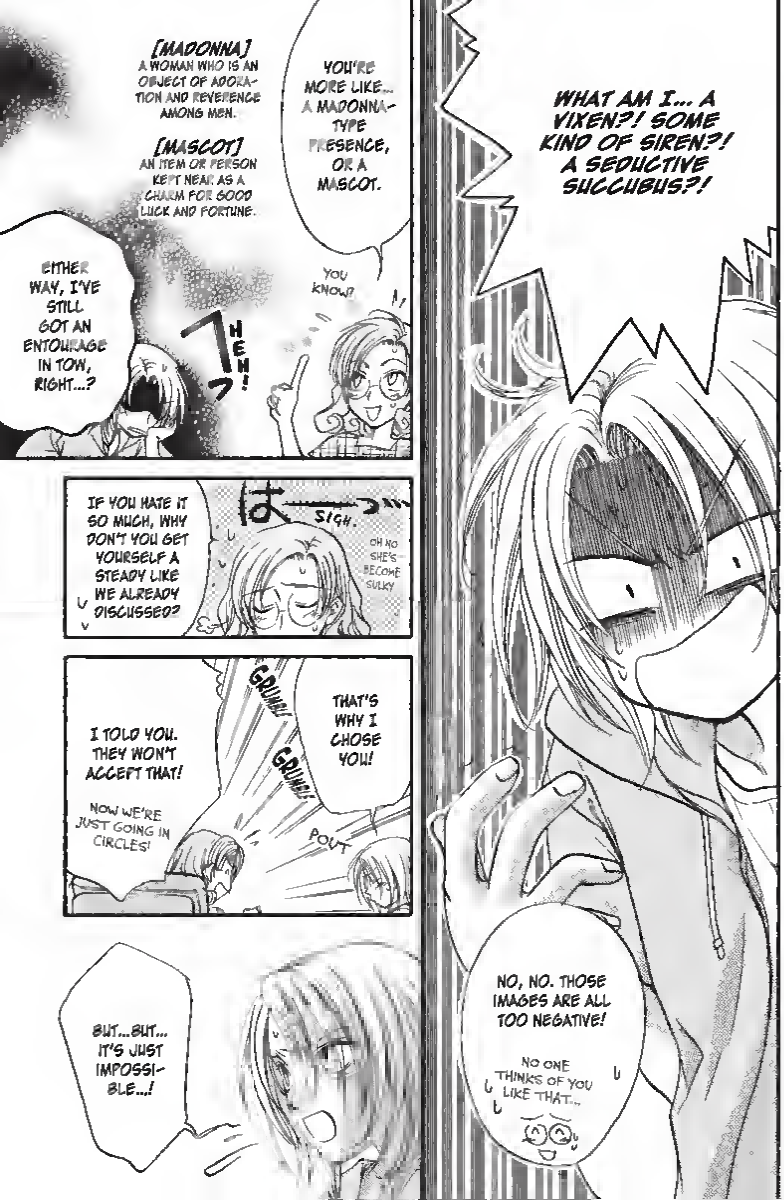

THAT'S YOUR BIG SOLUTION...?
AND BESIDES, THAT'S NOT TWO OPTIONS. IT'S JUST ONE!
A VARIATION...
がくっ
SLUMP


YOU KNOW I COULDN'T HANDLE SOMETHING LIKE THAT..!
I'M HAVING A HARD ENOUGH TIME TRYING TO FIND MYSELF!
AND TO ME, THOSE GUYS ARE STILL THE BUDDIES I USED TO HANG OUT WITH. HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO THINK OF THEM AS LOVE INTERESTS?


NO WAY!
YOU COULD TRY GOING OUT WITH EACH OF THEM, FIND THE ONE THAT YOU FEEL MOST COMPATIBLE WITH, AND THEN FORCE YOURSELF TO DEVELOP FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP INTO LOVE.


BESIDES... IF I DATED ALL FOUR OF THEM...
...WOULDN'T THAT MAKE ME, LIKE, A PLAYER?
I DON'T WANNA BRING YOU DOWN OR ANYTHING...BUT AS IT IS, YOU'RE ALREADY CONSIDERED SOMETHING OF A PLAYGIRL WHO HAS HER OWN ENTOURAGE OF BOY-TOYS IN TOW...
A PLAYER... I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT
OMG NO WAY! THAT MAKES ME SEEM LIKE A TOTAL SLUT OR SOMETHING!
NOOO!
B? PFFT?
WHAT A GREAT NOTION!

A PLAYGIRL WITH AN ENTOURAGE OF BOY-TOYS IN TOW...!


[MADONNA]
A WOMAN WHO IS AN OBJECT OF ADORATION AND REVERENCE AMONG MEN.
[MASCOT]
AN ITEM OR PERSON KEPT NEAR AS A CHARM FOR GOOD LUCK AND FORTUNE.
YOU'RE MORE LIKE... A MADONNA-TYPE PRESENCE, OR A MASCOT.
YOU KNOW?
EITHER WAY, I'VE STILL GOT AN ENTOURAGE IN TOW, RIGHT...?
HEH?
IF YOU HATE IT SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU GET YOURSELF A STEADY LIKE WE ALREADY DISCUSSED?
HAAA~
SIGH.
OH NO SHE'S BECOME SULKY
I TOLD YOU. THEY WON'T ACCEPT THAT!
NOW WE'RE JUST GOING IN CIRCLES!
GRUMBL
GRUMBL
POUT
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU!
BUT...BUT... IT'S JUST IMPOSSI-BLE...!
WHAT AM I... A VIXEN?! SOME KIND OF SIREN?! A SEDUCTIVE SUCCUBUS?!
NO, NO. THOSE IMAGES ARE ALL TOO NEGATIVE!
NO ONE THINKS OF YOU LIKE THAT...

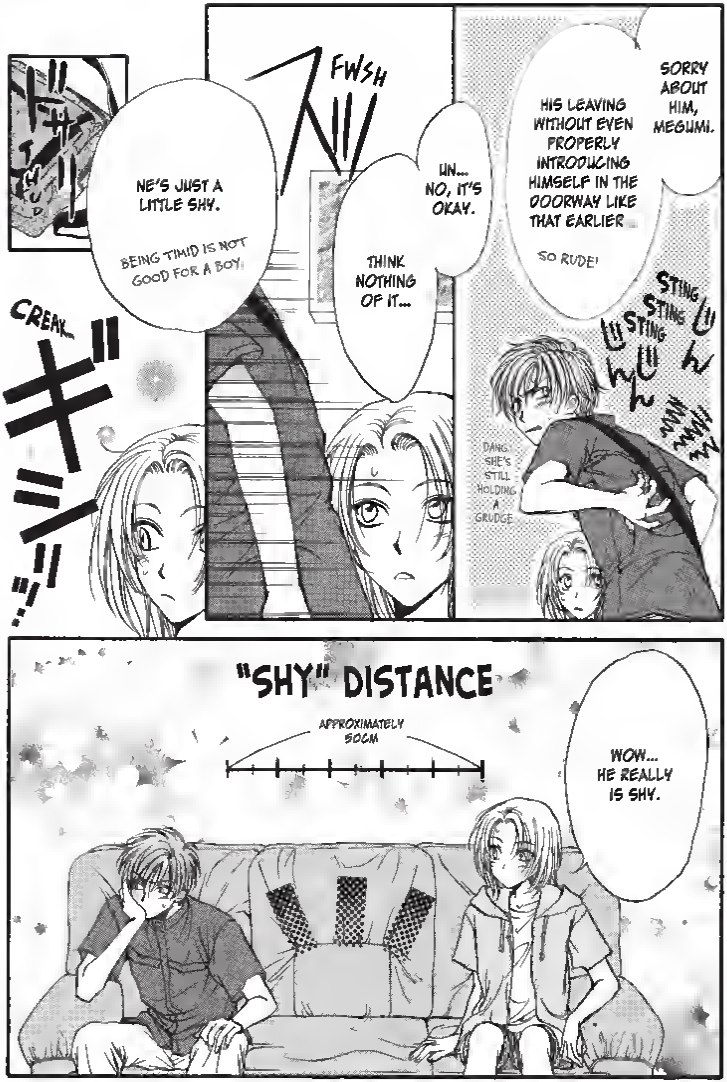
I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE THEM AS MY "LOVERS"!
AND EVEN IF I COULD, HAVING TO PICK JUST ONE OF THEM IS...
IF I SINGLED OUT ANY ONE OF THEM,
THE MEMORIES OF OUR TIMES TOGETHER,
WILL SHATTER –
WE'D SPEND LAZY DAYS UP ON THE ROOF TOGETHER, JUST KICKING BACK... HANGING OUT...
THEN KAWADA WOULD COME BURSTING IN...
I FIT IN. WE WERE TIGHT...THAT'S THE IMAGE I STILL HAVE OF THEM.
TO ME, THEY'RE STILL THE SAME OLD GUYS I USED TO KNOW...
MY BEST BUDS THAT I USED TO HANG OUT WITH BACK FROM WHEN I WAS STILL A BOY...

WHAAAT..? DO WE REALLY HAVE TO GO THERE..?
IT'S SETTLED! THE ONLY OPTION IS TO FIND YOU A SWEETHEART OUTSIDE OF THOSE FOUR! IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
OKAY, THEN!
HOWEVER!!
EVEN IF YOU DO GET YOURSELF A STEADY BOYFRIEND!!
CLATTER
THERE'S NO WAY THOSE FOUR STUBBORN BARNACLES WILL JUST STAND IDLY BY!
AND SO, MEGUMI!
PICTURED IMAGE
NO WAY! LIKE CINDERELLA'S EVIL STEPSISTERS, THEY'LL BE SURE TO BULLY THE COMPETITION TO DEATH!
JUMP!

YOU'LL HAVE TO CHOOSE SOMEONE GOOD ENOUGH TO COMPETE AGAINST THOSE FOUR!
GOT IT!
TH ..THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, BUT...
...DOES ANYONE LIKE THAT EVEN EXIST?
IN THIS WORLD.
WELL...IF HE DID, IT WOULD BE A GREAT FIND, THAT'S FOR SURE.
I'M SURE.
NO KIDDING...
CLATTER
CLATTER
カラ
カラ
カラ
I'M HOME.
OH...HE'S BACK.
BACK...?
THE KID

YOU MEAN...THAT KID I MET EARLIER?
WHO'S THAT?
OH -
THAT'S RIGHT, I GUESS YOU'VE NEVER MET.
OKAY. ALLOW ME TO FORMALLY INTRODUCE YOU.
THIS IS MY LITTLE BROTHER, MIKOTO.
MAKOTO'S LITTLE BROTHER-...
SAY HELLO, MIKOTO.

...HOW DO YOU DO. I'M MIKOTO.
BOW
ペコ
OH, YEAH, AND I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW, BUT THIS IS MY FRIEND MEGUMI.
HUH?
ALREADY KNOW...?
BUT TODAY'S THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET.
OH!
YOU SEE, WHEN IT WAS DECIDED THAT I WAS GOING TO BE LOOKING AFTER YOU, OUR WHOLE FAMILY WAS INFORMED OF YOUR SITUATION.
PICTURES OF MEGUMI ON DISPLAY, EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE YUTAKA FAMILY'S HOME
AHO WE HAVE SO MANY PHOTOS OF YOU IN OUR HOUSE, TOO, SO...
I KEEP FILES OF ALL THE BLACK-MARKET PHOTOS OF YOU SOLD AT SCHOOL.
WELL, GO ON .. YOU HAVE A SEAT, TOO.
OVER THERE!
MIGHT AS WELL GET COMFY
HUH?! BUT I JUST WANNA GO UP TO MY ROOM...
JUST SIT!
AAH!
ばし
WHAP


SORRY ABOUT HIM, MEGUMI.
HIS LEAVING WITHOUT EVEN PROPERLY INTRODUCING HIMSELF IN THE DOORWAY LIKE THAT EARLIER...
SO RUDE!
STING STING STING
DANG! SHE'S STILL HOLDING A GRUDGE
FWSH
UH... NO, IT'S OKAY.
THINK NOTHING OF IT...
CREAK
HE'S JUST A LITTLE SHY.
BEING TIMID IS NOT GOOD FOR A BOY!
"SHY" DISTANCE
APPROXIMATELY 50CM
WOW... HE REALLY IS SHY.

SO, HOW OLD ARE YOU?
13... SECOND YEAR, JUNIOR HIGH...
MIKOTO! GIVE A PROPER ANSWER!
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE?!
UM, MAKOTO ...IT'S OKAY.
I NEVER KNEW YOU HAD A LITTLE BROTHER, MAKOTO...
ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN ONLY CHILD.
I MIGHT AS WELL BE, MOST OF THE TIME.
MIKOTO LIVES IN A DORM ON CAMPUS, SO HE'S USUALLY NEVER HERE.
OH...SO, YOU LIVE IN A DORM?
WOW...IN JUNIOR HIGH?
BUT ISN'T LIVING IN A DORM TOUGH WITH ALL THE STRICT RULES AND EVERY-THING?

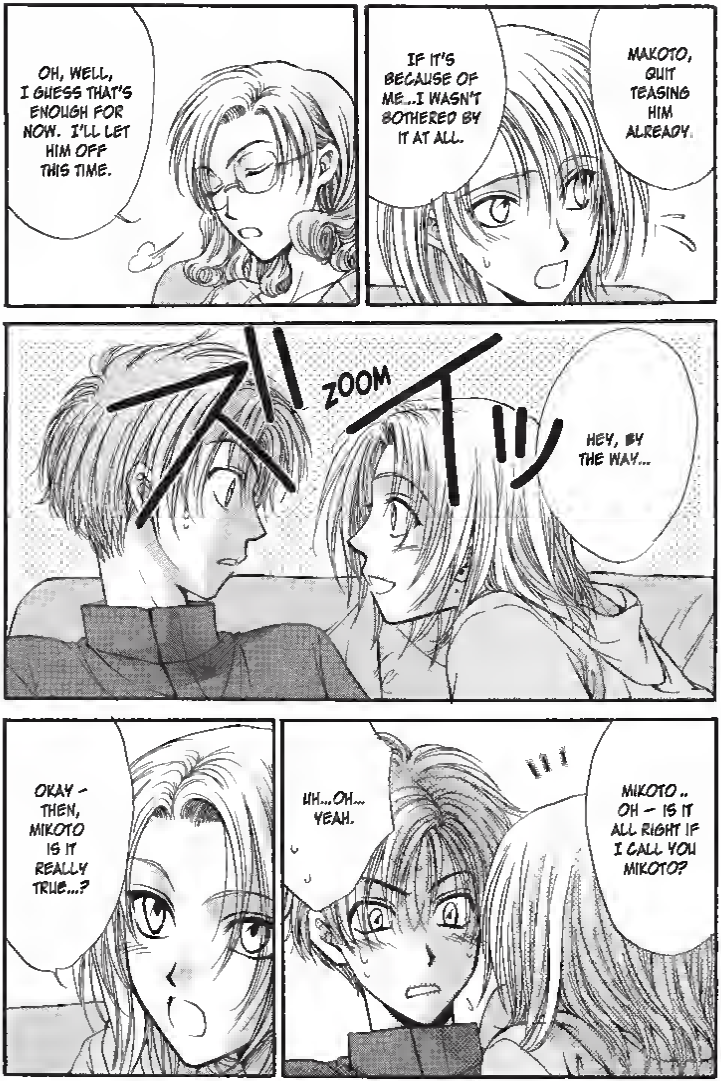
ぱっ
HE SEEMS LIKE HE'S HAVING A PRETTY FUN TIME!
NOT REALLY...
WHOA...
BOUT
IT SEEMS HE'S PRETTY SOUGHT-AFTER AND EVEN CALLED "MIKOTO-CHAN" BY ALL THE BOYS AT SCHOOL.
HIS LOOKS AREN'T BAD, AND HIS PHYSIQUE IS ON THE DELICATE SIDE, SO...
EVER SINCE HIS FRESHMAN YEAR
HA...
AND WHEN HE IGNORED A BOY WHO CALLED HIM WITH THE "-CHAN" AT THE END OF HIS NAME, THE OTHER BOY CRIED AND BEGGED FOR FORGIVENESS...AND MIKOTO RELENTED. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MIKOTO?
プープープー
PFFT~
WH...
WH...
TREMBLE
わな
TREMBLE
わな...

ニヤリ...
SMIRK
AND THAT'S NOT ALL ♡
ピク
JUMP
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THAT?!
BAM
AN UPPERCLASSMAN CONFESSED HIS LOVE FOR YOU AND THERE WAS EVEN AN INCIDENT WHERE YOUR VIRTUE WAS IN DANGER, WASN'T THERE?
I'VE HEARD THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF OTHER ATTEMPTS LIKE THAT, TOO
ISN'T IT SCARY, BEING IN AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL!! ♡ ♡
あはははは
AHAHAHAHAHA
あわわわ
WHOA WHOA
FLAP FLAP
WHERE DID THE FAN COME FROM..?
AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL...
VIRTUE IN DANGER...
HO HO HO! YOUR BIG SISTER KNOWS ALL!

AND IF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE THING WITH THE SEMPAI, IT'S GOT TO BE SOMEONE IN MY CLASS
HA HA
WHO THE HELL DID YOU HEAR IT FROM?!
IT'S ALL ABOUT STUFF THAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL, SO IT'S GOT TO BE SOMEONE I KNOW!
GIVEN A CUTESY NICKNAME LIKE "MIKOTO-CHAN"..
TREATED LIKE A PLAYTHING AND HIT ON BY THE GUYS AROUND HIM...
THAT'S...
I'VE GOT IT! IT WAS YOSHIDA, WASN'T IT?! IT HAS TO BE HIM!!
OOPS HE FIGURED IT OUT
GRUMBLE
THAT JERK.. BLABBING STUFF ABOUT ME ALL OVER THE PLACE!
NEXT TIME I SEE HIM HE'S GONNA GET IT
CRUSH
THAT'S A LIE! YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT MY "WELL-BEING"! YOU JUST WANTED SOME DIRT ON ME! AND YOU WERE PROBABLY ONLY USING YOSHIDA FOR YOUR OWN PURPOSES!
ALL HE DID WAS HELP A SISTER WHO WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HER DEAR LITTLE BROTHER'S WELL-BEING. OK?
OK?
I'M SUCH A KIND SISTER
HEY!
DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON YOSHIDA-KUN

MIKOTO? IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT BIG SISTER SAYS...
...BIG SISTER MAY JUST BLAB SOME MORE ABOUT YOU ♡
HEE HEE HEE
GRIN
そーっ
SHIVER
LIKE ABOUT THE TIME THOSE THREE PHOTOS DISAPPEARED FROM OUR HOUSE...
AND WHERE THOSE PHOTOS WENT...
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TALK ABOUT THAT HERE AND NOW? ♡
HE HEH
DRAIN...
ばちっ
SPARK
ブーン
HUH?

...YOU KNEW ABOUT THAT?
...
WHUMP
DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE?
FOOLISH BOY!
HA!
SMIRK
IF YOU KNEW...
...WHY DID YOU BLAB ALL THAT ABOUT ME?!
BECAUSE YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MEGUMI WAS SO RUDE.
I KNEW IT...
HUH? ME?!

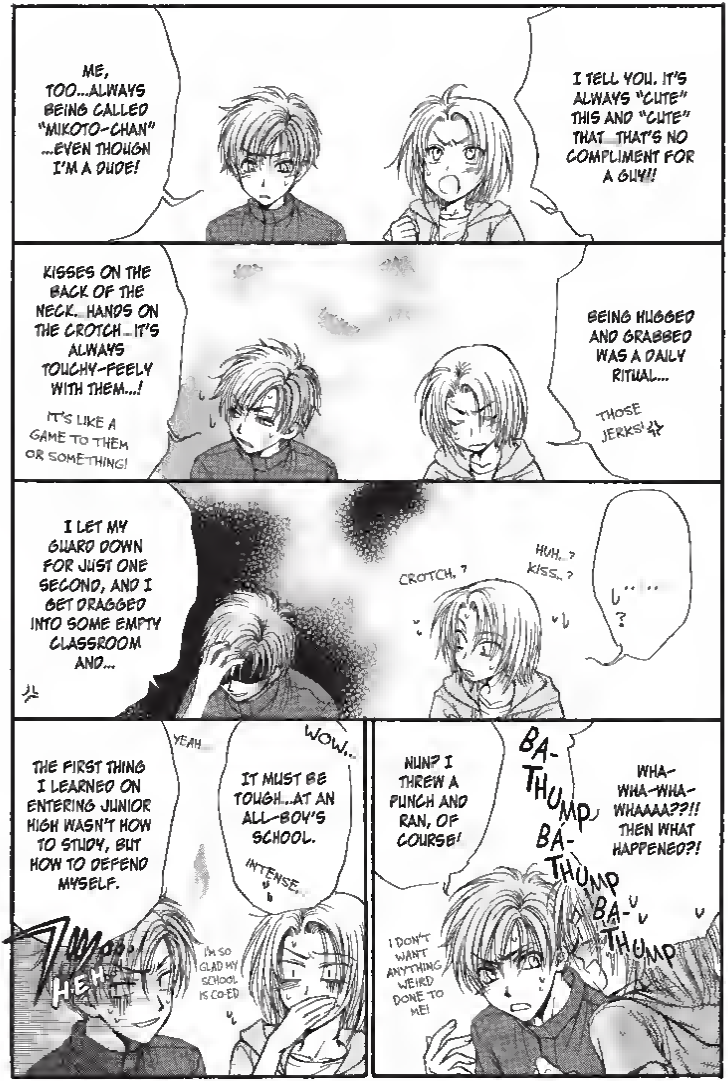

MAKOTO, QUIT TEASING HIM ALREADY.
IF IT'S BECAUSE OF ME...I WASN'T BOTHERED BY IT AT ALL.
OH, WELL, I GUESS THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW. I'LL LET HIM OFF THIS TIME.
ZOOM
HEY, BY THE WAY...
MIKOTO.. OH — IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I CALL YOU MIKOTO?
UH...OH... YEAH.
OKAY — THEN, MIKOTO IS IT REALLY TRUE...?

YOU'RE CALLED "MIKOTO-CHAN" AND YOU'RE TREATED LIKE A GIRL AND A PLAYTHING AND HIT ON BY BOYS?
STAB
GRASH
MEGUMI... AFTER HAVING HIS MOST EMBARRASSING SECRETS REVEALED, YOU'RE WHEEDLING HIM FOR CONFIRMATION?
I THINK YOU JUST DEEPLY WOUNDED A YOUNG MAN'S PRIDE.
HUH...?
OH!!
DOOOOM
I KNOW I'M THE ONE WHO REVEALED THEM, BUT
DID YOU WANT TO BE THE ONE TO TEASE HIM?
WAIT! I'M SORRY! THAT'S NOT HOW I MEANT IT!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT...IT'S THE TRUTH, ANYWAY.

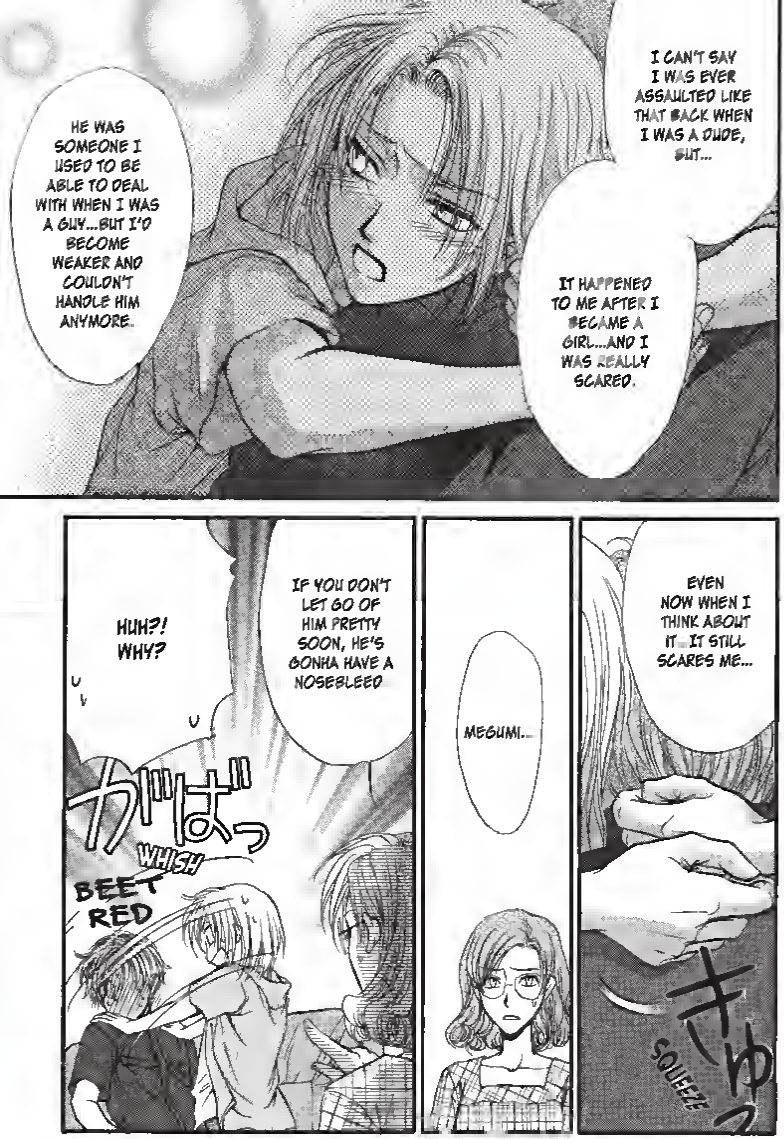
すねる
POUT
IT'S TRUE... I'M ALWAYS TEASED AND HIT ON BY DUDES BECAUSE OF MY LOOKS AND PHYSIQUE AND NAME.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I... WHAT I WANTED TO SAY WAS...!
EXCUSE ME FOR NOT BEING MANLY ENOUGH...
I'M SHORT, TOO.
POUT POUT
ムカッ
GRRR!
YIKES! IT'S JUST THAT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME, SO...!!
MEGUMI... RESORTING TO VIOLENCE AS A WAY TO SHUT SOMEONE UP... I CAN'T CONDONE IT.
THUD
A GIRL SHOULDN'T USE FISTS...
WILL YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING?!

IT...IT'S FINE... LEAVE ME ALONE!
WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO SAY, ANYWAY?!
なでなで RUB RUB
DID THAT HURT? GEEZ, I'M SORRY!
OH-
I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT I'M IN THE SAME BOAT AS YOU.
HUH...?
I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW... I MAY LOOK LIKE THIS NOW, BUT...
JUST A YEAR AGO, I WAS A GUY, TOO.
MEGUMI WHEN SHE WAS THE BOY "KEI"

THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO TELL YOU. I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
SO MY BUDS ALWAYS TREATED ME AS IF I WERE A GIRL OR A PLAYTHING, TOO.
I WAS SHORT AND THIN AND HAD AN EFFEMINATE FACE...
BUT I HAD AN ANDROGY-NOUS NAME THAT COULD BE USED FOR A BOY OR A GIRL
..YEAH.
SEE? AREN'T WE ALIKE?


ME, TOO...ALWAYS BEING CALLED "MIKOTO-CHAN" ...EVEN THOUGH I'M A DUDE!
I TELL YOU. IT'S ALWAYS "CUTE" THIS AND "CUTE" THAT...THAT'S NO COMPLIMENT FOR A GUY!!
KISSES ON THE BACK OF THE NECK...HANDS ON THE CROTCH...IT'S ALWAYS TOUCHY-FEELY WITH THEM...!
IT'S LIKE A GAME TO THEM OR SOMETHING!
BEING HUGGED AND GRABBED WAS A DAILY RITUAL...
THOSE JERKS!
I LET MY GUARD DOWN FOR JUST ONE SECOND, AND I GET DRAGGED INTO SOME EMPTY CLASSROOM AND...
CROTCH.?
HUH..? KISS..?
...?
THE FIRST THING I LEARNED ON ENTERING JUNIOR HIGH WASN'T HOW TO STUDY, BUT HOW TO DEFEND MYSELF.
YEAH
WOW...
IT MUST BE TOUGH...AT AN ALL-BOY'S SCHOOL.
INTENSE...
I'M SO GLAD MY SCHOOL IS CO-ED
HE-HE-HE
NUN? I THREW A PUNCH AND RAN, OF COURSE!
BA-THUMP BA-THUMP BA-THUMP
WHA-WHA-WHA-WHAAAA??!! THEN WHAT HAPPENED?!
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING WEIRD DONE TO ME!

I KNOW! I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL!!
WHAP
わっ
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ADEQUATELY DESCRIBE THE PURE FEAR AND DISGUST I FELT AFTER BEING PINNED DOWN BENEATH ANOTHER GUY AND LOOKING INTO HIS LUST-FILLED EYES!!
IT'S SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST OUT THERE!
WHA WAIT WHAT ARE YOU
YEAH, YEAH
UH...
EH?

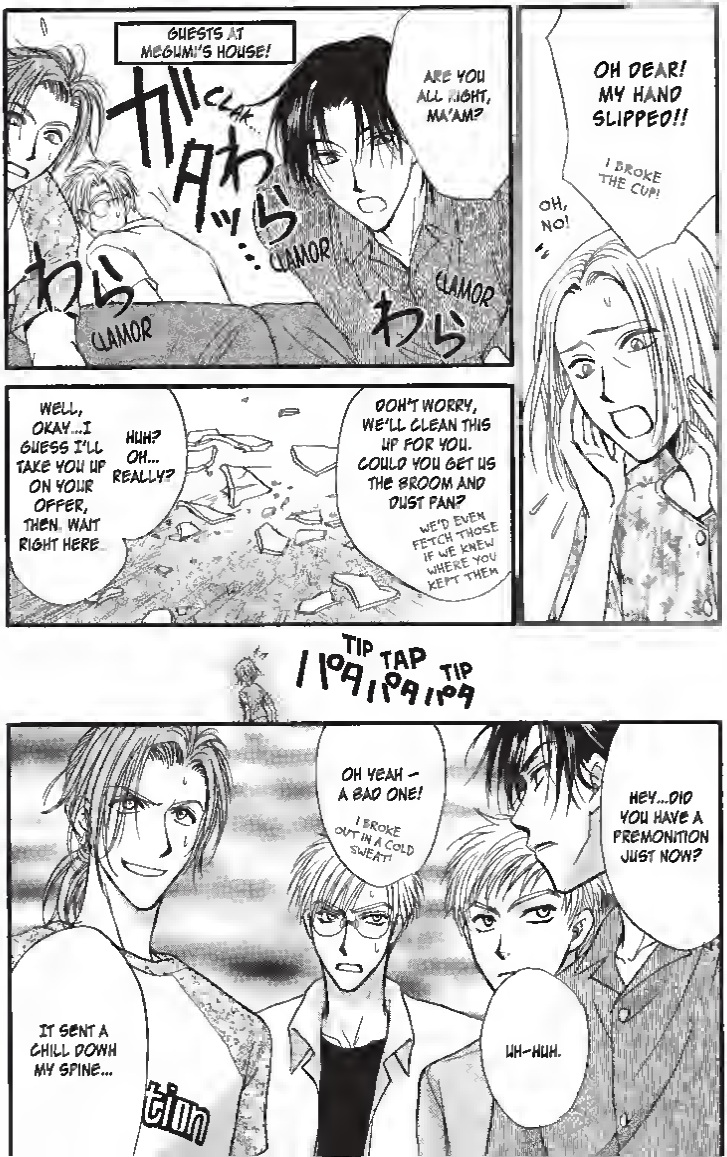

I CAN'T SAY I WAS EVER ASSAULTED LIKE THAT BACK WHEN I WAS A DUDE, BUT...
IT HAPPENED TO ME AFTER I BECAME A GIRL...AND I WAS REALLY SCARED.
HE WAS SOMEONE I USED TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH WHEN I WAS A GUY...BUT I'D BECOME WEAKER AND COULDN'T HANDLE HIM ANYMORE.
EVEN NOW WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT... IT STILL SCARES ME...
きゅっ
SQUEEZE
MEGUMI...
IF YOU DON'T LET GO OF HIM PRETTY SOON, HE'S GONNA HAVE A NOSEBLEED
HUH?! WHY?
かぁぁっ
WHISH!
BEET RED

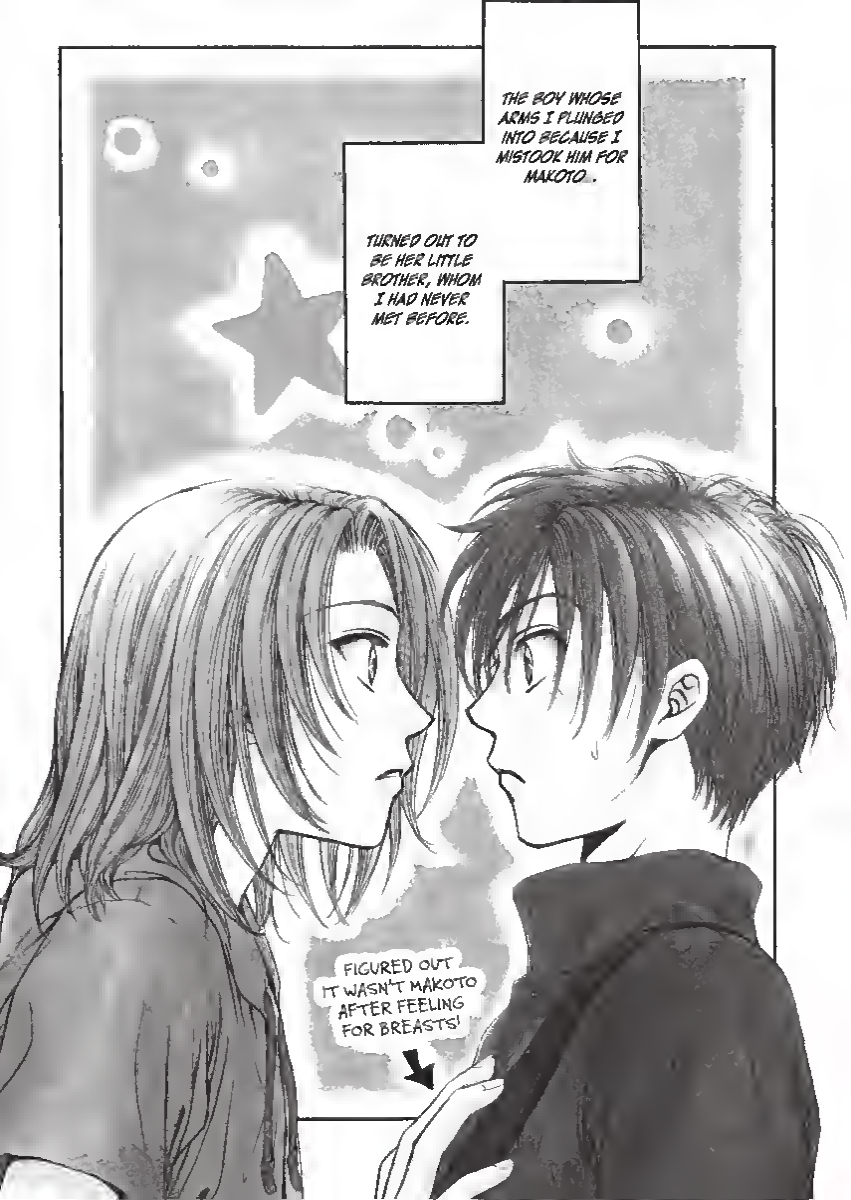
THAT'S NOT IT, MEGUMI. YOU SEE, MIKOTO...
WHAT ABOUT MIKOTO?
FLING FLING FLING
DON'T SAY IT!
DON'T SAY IT!
...
...
DID I HUG HIM THAT HARD?
CUT OFF HIS AIR?
WORRY
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
I SEE...
GASP
PANT
BEAM
...IS JUST NOT USED TO GIRLS BECAUSE HE'S BEEN ATTENDING AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL FOR SO LONG...AND HE BECAME FLUSTERED WITH YOU.
YOU ARE A GIRL NOW, AFTER ALL.

BLUSH!
ZOOM
STAB
IT'S TRUE! THAT'S SO CUTE ♡
BUT..
I USED TO GET MAD AT THAT WHEN I WAS A GUY, TOO.
OH, RIGHT! SORRY.
MEGUMI.. DON'T YOU THINK CALLING A TEENAGE BOY "CUTE" IS AN AFFRONT TO HIS MASCULINITY?
TEE
HEE HEE

HEY, MEGUMI...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WEREN'T YOU AFRAID OF ALL MEN?
HE MAY BE IN THE "CUTE" CATEGORY, BUT HE'S STILL MALE, YOU KNOW.
HA HA! THIS REACTION...IT REALLY IS CUTE, THOUGH!
FUN, TOO
HMM..
ぴとっ
CLING
AAAGHHH!!
AAH!
AAH!
AAH!
ずざざー
ZSHHH!
HA HA HA
HUH...?
UMM...
BUT MIKOTO'S NOT SCARY OR CREEPY...I DON'T GET THAT VIBE FROM HIM AT ALL.

I SEE...
I'VE NEVER REALLY BEEN AROUND GUYS HIS TYPE BEFORE.
I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED HIM AS A CANDIDATE
MIKOTO, HUH?
THIS COULD BE VERY INTERESTING...
CHUCKLE
SMASH

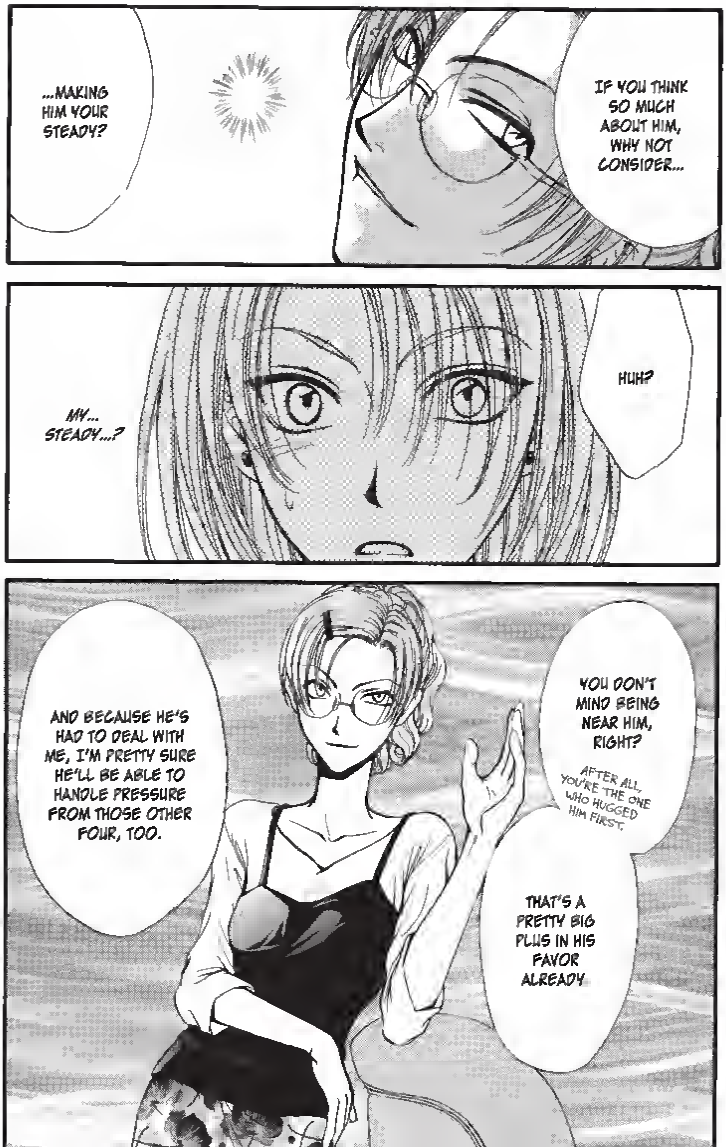

GUESTS AT MEGUMI'S HOUSE!
ガシャ CLANK
わら CLAMOR
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MA'AM?
OH DEAR! MY HAND SLIPPED!!
I BROKE THE CUP!
OH, NO!
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL CLEAN THIS UP FOR YOU. COULD YOU GET US THE BROOM AND DUST PAN?
WE'D EVEN FETCH THOSE IF WE KNEW WHERE YOU KEPT THEM
HUH? OH... REALLY?
WELL, OKAY...I GUESS I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER, THEN. WAIT RIGHT HERE.
TIP TAP TIP TAP TIP TAP
OH YEAH — A BAD ONE!
I BROKE OUT IN A COLD SWEAT!
HEY...DID YOU HAVE A PREMONITION JUST NOW?
IT SENT A CHILL DOWN MY SPINE...
UH-HUH.


THE BOY WHOSE ARMS I PLUNGED INTO BECAUSE I MISTOOK HIM FOR MAKOTO...
TURNED OUT TO BE HER LITTLE BROTHER, WHOM I HAD NEVER MET BEFORE.
FIGURED OUT IT WASN'T MAKOTO AFTER FEELING FOR BREASTS!

BECAUSE I WAS IN A STATE OF EMOTIONAL CONFUSION, I DIDN'T WANT TO FACE THE GUYS AT THE MOMENT.
THE GUYS.
AND YET, I SOMEHOW FIND MYSELF FEELING VERY FOND OF MAKOTO'S LITTLE BROTHER, MIKOTO...
MIKOTO-KUN
WHAT...?
SO, IGNORING MY MOTHER'S PROTESTS, I AM HEADING OUT TO MAKOTO'S HOUSE AGAIN TODAY.
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
BUT WAIT, MEGUMI! SHIN-MEI-KUN AND THE OTHERS MAY DROP BY AGAIN TODAY!

I'M HERE! WHERE'S MIKOTO?
...
...
OUT.
HE JUST POPPED OUT TO THE CONVE-NIENCE STORE, SO HE'LL BE RIGHT BACK
HEH...
ACTUALLY THAT'S WHAT HE WAS DOING WHEN THEY FIRST MET, TOO
MAKOTO...ARE YOU MAKING HIM RUN ERRANDS FOR YOU AGAIN?
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM!
OH? BUT IT'S AN ELDER SIBLING'S PRIVILEGE AND A JUNIOR SIBLING'S DUTY.
ISN'T IT?
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
WHY ME...?
GO BUY ME SOME JUICE

I JUST COME HERE TO ESCAPE BECAUSE THOSE GUYS MAY COME VISIT ME AT MY HOUSE!
I KNOW, BUT YOU JUST SEEM SO HAPPY ABOUT IT THESE DAYS.
THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME... ULTERIOR MOTIVE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
HEH HEH HEH
WHAT INTERESTS ME MORE IS THE REASON YOU COME OVER SO FREQUENTLY THESE DAYS...HMM, MEGUMI?
I SWEAR...
OH... BUT...
I JUST WONDERED WHERE.. HE WAS
HUMPH HUMPH
AS SOON AS YOU SET FOOT IN THE DOOR, THE FIRST WORDS OUT OF YOUR MOUTH ARE, "WHERE'S MIKOTO?"!
NOT EVEN A GREETING FOR ME. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FEEL AS YOUR FRIEND?
ULTERIOR MOTIVE...?
MIKOTO.
RIGHT?


...MAKING HIM YOUR STEADY?
IF YOU THINK SO MUCH ABOUT HIM, WHY NOT CONSIDER...
MY... STEADY...?
HUH?
AND BECAUSE HE'S HAD TO DEAL WITH ME, I'M PRETTY SURE HE'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE PRESSURE FROM THOSE OTHER FOUR, TOO.
YOU DON'T MIND BEING NEAR HIM, RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HUGGED HIM FIRST.
THAT'S A PRETTY BIG PLUS IN HIS FAVOR ALREADY

...BUT THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE I IDENTIFY WITH HIM SINCE WE'VE BOTH BEEN THROUGH THE SAME TYPE OF TRAUMA.
THIS IS MY LITTLE BROTHER, MIKOTO
AND BECAUSE HE'S YOUR LITTLE BROTHER...
IT'S TRUE THAT I DON'T FEEL UNCOM-FORTABLE AROUND MIKOTO, AND THINGS MIGHT BE OKAY WITH HIM.
BUT I THINK OF HIM MORE LIKE A FRIEND OR A COMRADE OR EVEN LIKE A YOUNGER RELATIVE...
BUT...
AND BESIDES ...
HE'S PLANNING ON BECOMING A DOCTOR, SO HIS FUTURE'S PRETTY SECURE, TOO. I THINK HE'D BE THE PERFECT PARTNER FOR YOU TO GO OUT WITH ♡ SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HE'S A LITTLE YOUNGER, BUT...
GO OUT...?
ME, GO OUT WITH MIKOTO ...?
WHAT DO I THINK...?
WELL... YEAH, I'M FOND OF MIKOTO, AND I DON'T FEEL SELF-CON-SCIOUS ABOUT HUGGING HIM EITHER, BUT...

DO YOU THINK SO?
EVEN IF HE'S USED TO PRESSURE FROM YOU, THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD TAKE ON ALL FOUR OF THEM AT ONCE.
HE'S GOT ENOUGH OF HIS OWN PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL.
...I'D FEEL GUILTY PITTING HIM AGAINST THOSE OTHER FOUR GUYS.
I DON'T THINK HE COULD HANDLE THOSE GUYS. NOT THOSE FOUR.
AND I WOULDN'T WANT MIKOTO TO BE BULLIED OR HURT BECAUSE OF ME...
OF COURSE I THINK SO! HE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE DEALING WITH THEM ONE-ON-ONE...BUT THERE'S FOUR OF THEM!
UH, NO MAYBE NOT EVEN ONE-ON-ONE
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
SHE'S ALREADY TOTALLY CHOOSING MIKOTO OVER THE OTHER FOUR...
SHE DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE IT. TALK ABOUT DENSE

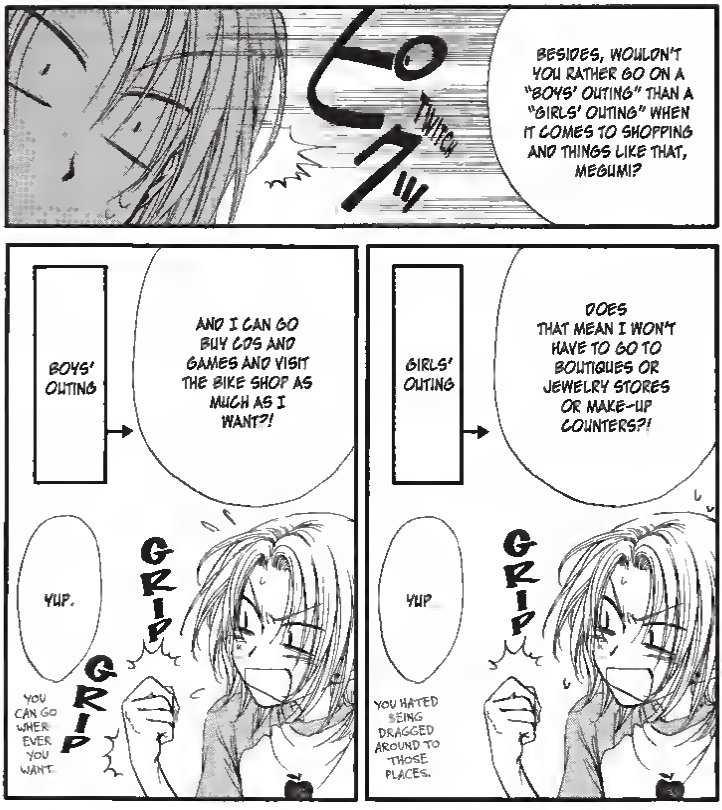
AND ANYWAY! I'M SURE MIKOTO WOULD TOTALLY OBJECT TO GOING OUT WITH ME!
APTER ALL, HE KNOWS THAT I USED TO BE A GUY AND EVERYTHING!
UH...ACTUALLY, THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH MIKOTO ON THAT SCORE...
STOP WITH THE CRAZY IDEAS!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO IF I BECOME SELF-CONSCIOUS AROUND MIKOTO NOW BECAUSE OF THIS?!
THAT WOULD HELP MY PLANS ALONG IMMENSELY, ACTUALLY.
PLEASE DO.

SNAP!
ビシッ
OKAY OKAY.
SO! PROMISE ME YOU WON'T SUGGEST THAT WEIRDNESS TO MIKOTO EITHER! GOT IT?!
JUMP!
ビクゥッ
EEP!
ひょい
Pop
I'M BACK.
HUH? WHAT'S THAT ABOUT ME?
M... MMMMIKOTO! WELCOME HOME!

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SHE'S GOT SOME FEELINGS FOR HIM, BUT...
I GUESS IT'S STILL A LONG WAY FROM BEING ROMANTIC.
IT WAS NOTHING! NOTHING AT ALL!
OH, WHAT DID YOU BUY?
RUNNING ERRANDS AGAIN?
HAHA
SNACKS AND ICE CREAM.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
HMMMM...
WELL, THOSE OTHER FOUR AREN'T ONES TO STAND IDLY BY, SO THERE'S SURE TO BE SOMETHING...
I WONDER IF THERE ISN'T SOME SITUATION THAT COULD HELP HER ALONG IN THAT DIRECTION?

HEY.
SINCE IT'S SUMMER VACATION AND ALL, I FEEL LIKE GOING OUT SOMEWHERE WITH EVERYONE.
DON'T YOU?
BY "EVERYONE" YOU MEAN ME, MIKOTO, AND YOU? THE THREE OF US?
YUP.
BINGO
ZING
WHY NOT?!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WHY SO BLUNT?!
CLUTTER
IF IT WERE JUST ME AND YOU, MAYBE
THINK ABOUT IT.
TO PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE, THAT WOULD BE LIKE YOU GOING ON AN OUTING WITH YOUR MOTHER.
WOULD YOU WANT TO GO?
NO
DO YOU THINK A NORMAL TEENAGE BOY WOULD WANT TO GO ON AN OUTING WITH HIS BIG SISTER AND HER FRIEND?
BLUNT
NO WAY.
IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING AND YOU'D ONLY MAKE ME YOUR PACK MULE
YOU CAN BE HONEST
LOOK, I'LL TRY ASKING NIM DIRECTLY. MIKOTO, WOULD YOU WANT TO GO ON AN OUTING WITH ME?

...WHY DON'T YOU TWO GO SOMEWHERE? JUST THE TWO OF YOU?
HUH?
URMM..
SEE? TOLD YOU.
GRIND GRIND
A BOOK STEPPED ON UNDER THE TABLE
NOT THAT HONEST
BUT YOU SAID I COULD...
OW
OW
SO...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HIM ONCE SCHOOL STARTS UP AGAIN.
OH... THAT'S RIGHT.
NOT EVERY DAY LIKE THIS..
YOU CAN GO OUT WITH ME ANY OLD TIME.
BUT IT'S DIFFERENT WITH MIKOTO, RIGHT?
OH NO, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.
BUT IF SOMETHING DID HAPPEN, WELL...
...
...
MAKOTO... YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ANYTHING... ARE YOU?
WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT BEFORE


BESIDES, WOULDN'T YOU RATHER GO ON A "BOYS' OUTING" THAN A "GIRLS' OUTING" WHEN IT COMES TO SHOPPING AND THINGS LIKE THAT, MEGUMI?
BOYS' OUTING
AND I CAN GO BUY CDS AND GAMES AND VISIT THE BIKE SHOP AS MUCH AS I WANT?!
YUP.
GRIP
GRIP
YOU CAN GO WHEREVER YOU WANT.
GIRLS' OUTING
DOES THAT MEAN I WON'T HAVE TO GO TO BOUTIQUES OR JEWELRY STORES OR MAKE-UP COUNTERS?!
YUP.
GRIP
YOU HATED BEING DRAGGED AROUND TO THOSE PLACES.
NOTE: THIS IS MEGUMI

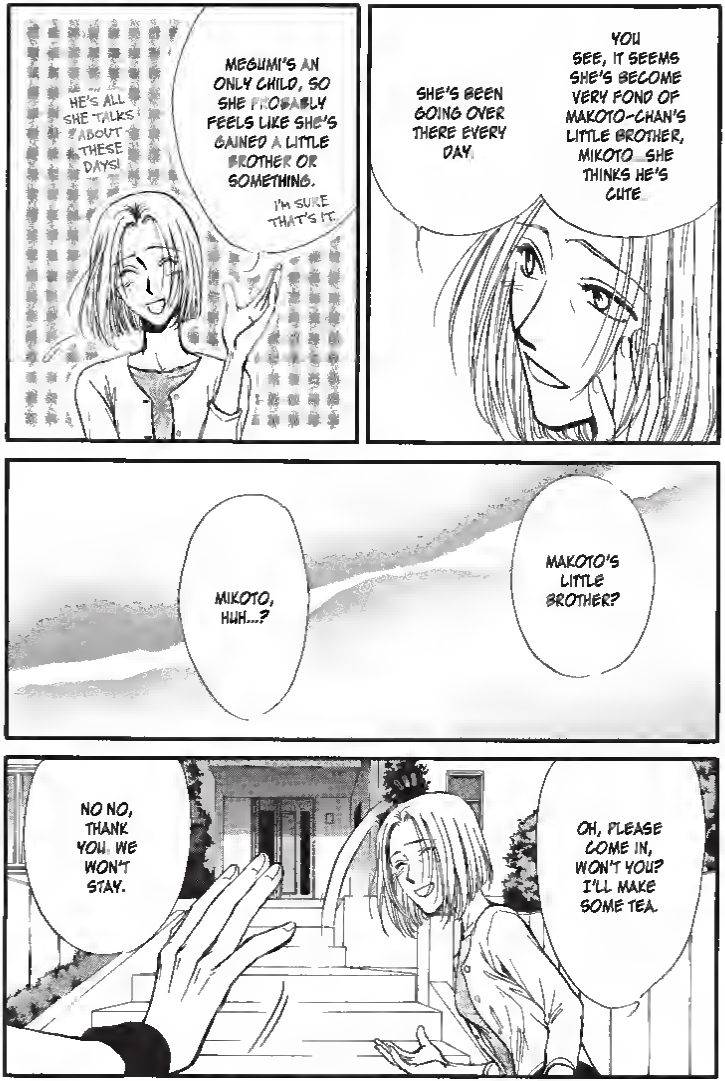
IT MAKES ME NERVOUS WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR ME!
LIKE YOU HAVE SOME PLAN UP YOUR SLEEVE
WHAT? AREN'T YOU HAPPY? I LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR A DATE FOR YOU.
AND CALL ME "BIG SISTER"
A WALK AROUND THE ELECTRONICS DISTRICT WOULD BE NICE, TOO
SWOON
HE HE HEH...
HE HE...
HEY, MAKOTO, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!
IT'S HOT ALL GOOD.
YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH SOME PRETTY TOUGH COMPETITION.
COMPETITION?
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'LL HAVE TO PROTECT MEGUMI FROM ALL HER PESKY SUITORS
HER FOUR FORMER BUDDIES WHO HAVE PUT THEMSELVES IN THE RUNNING AS HER BOYFRIEND
YOU SEE, MEGUMI IS CONFLICTED IN HER DEALINGS WITH MEN BECAUSE OF HER SITUATION.
THINGS WERE FURTHER COMPLICATED ALL BECAUSE OF ONE FOOL, AND SHE BECAME PHOBIC ABOUT MEN
AND NOW SHE'S EVEN AVOIDING HER FORMER FRIENDS.
THEN, JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THINGS WERE LOOKING BLEAK, YOU HAPPENED ALONG.
HUH? ME?

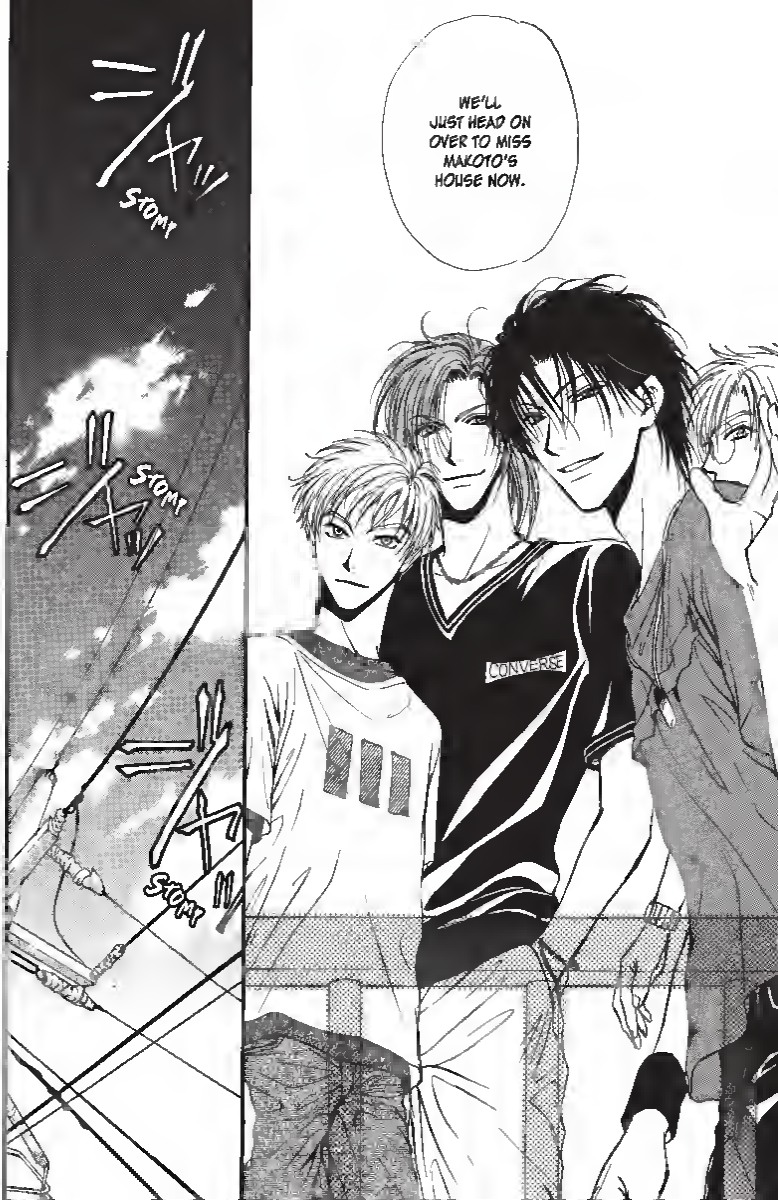
FOR SOME REASON, MEGUMI HAS NO PROBLEM DEALING WITH YOU.
AND SHE SEEMS VERY FOND OF YOU.
SHE THINKS OF HIM AS A YOUNGER BROTHER, BUT I GUESS I'LL KEEP QUIET ABOUT THAT.
AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, YOU'VE GOT A CRUSH ON MEGUMI, TOO, RIGHT?
SO, I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A CHANCE.
SEEING YOU FIGHT OFF THE OTHER SUITORS MIGHT MAKE MEGUMI'S FEMININE SIDE BLOOM.
THERE YOU HAVE IT. I'M SURE THOSE FOUR WON'T STAND BY AND LET YOU HAVE A QUIET MOMENT WITH MEGUMI. BUT GOOD LUCK!
COMPETITION . FOUR OF THEM...
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THEY'RE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ...
WILL I REALLY BE ABLE TO STAND UP TO THEM...?

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I DON'T WANT TO LET YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE HAVE MEGUMI.
WHAT?!
BECAUSE MEGUMI'S SO CUTE. BOTH IN LOOKS AND PERSONALITY.
AND SHE DEPENDS ON ME, AND TRUSTS ME SO MUCH
HEH...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M STILL NOT READY TO LET MEGUMI GO JUST YET, SO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...
THEN I'LL...
I'LL GO!!
CLATTER
BUT WHEN I THINK OF MEGUMI'S WELFARE, I KNOW I SHOULDN'T KEEP HER TO MYSELF
THAT'S WHY I ENCOURAGED YOU ABOUT HER, TOO...

—
THAT'S EVEN WORSE
...
はっ!
OH, SEE? MIKOTO'S INTO IT, TOO!
OH... UH, YEAH...
HOW ABOUT THE ARCADE?
IT WAS THE TRUTH. I SAID, "TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST," DIDN'T I?
CASUAL
しれっ...
WAS THAT ON-PURPOSE?
I FELL FOR IT!
ガーン
THUD
うきっ HAPPY
SO, WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO, MIKOTO?
うきっ HAPPY
UH...WHEREVER YOU'D LIKE, MISS MEGUMI... IS ALL RIGHT WITH ME

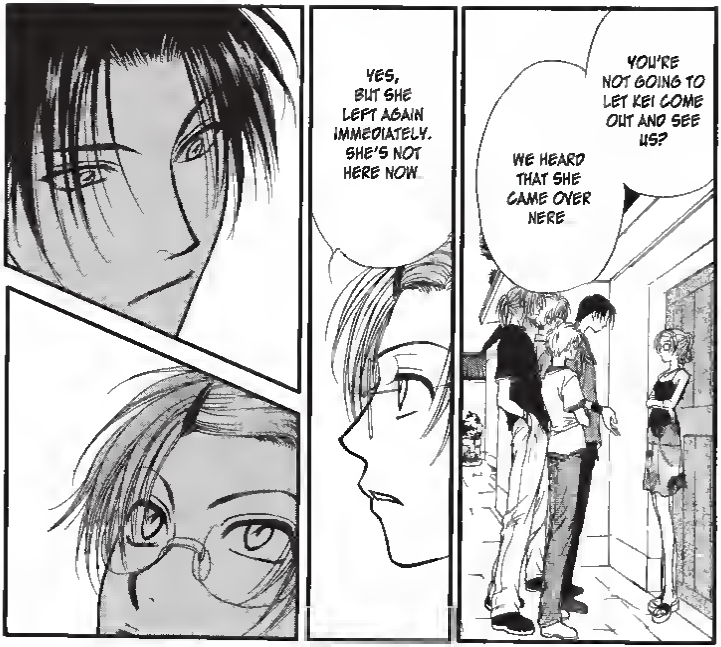
THAT'S RIGHT... IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WENT TO MAKOTO-CHAN'S HOUSE AGAIN TODAY I'M SORRY.
WHAT? MEGUMI'S NOT HERE?
NO, IT'S OUR FAULT FOR DROPPING BY UNANNOUNCED.
BUT IF WE CALL AHEAD, SHE ESCAPES.


HE'S ALL SHE TALKS ABOUT THESE DAYS!
MEGUMI'S AN ONLY CHILD, SO SHE PROBABLY FEELS LIKE SHE'S GAINED A LITTLE BROTHER OR SOMETHING.
I'M SURE THAT'S IT.
SHE'S BEEN GOING OVER THERE EVERY DAY.
YOU SEE, IT SEEMS SHE'S BECOME VERY FOND OF MAKOTO-CHAN'S LITTLE BROTHER, MIKOTO...SHE THINKS HE'S CUTE.
MIKOTO, HUH...?
MAKOTO'S LITTLE BROTHER?
NO NO, THANK YOU. WE WON'T STAY.
OH, PLEASE COME IN, WON'T YOU? I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.


STORM
STORM
STORM
WE'LL JUST HEAD ON OVER TO MISS MAKOTO'S HOUSE NOW.
CONVERSE

SIGH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK...?
I THINK... THIS LOOKS BAD.
I AGREE.
SO, OUR BAD PREMONITION WAS REAL?
SHOULDN'T WE HAVE MOVED IN IMMEDIATELY WHEN WE HAD THAT BAD FEELING?
WHO'S THE ONE WHO SAID IT WOULDN'T DO TO BE TOO PUSHY?
HUH?
JUST CALM DOWN.
FIRST, LET'S JUST SEE WHAT KIND OF GUY THIS MIKOTO IS.

DUM!
HOW NICE OF YOU TO TREK ALL THE WAY OVER HERE IN THIS HEAT.
DA-DUM!
THAT'S RIGHT NEITHER HEAT NOR RAIN NOR SNOW.
OH NO, THIS HEAT IS NOTHING TO US IF IT MEANS WE CAN SEE KEI.
CUNNIE!


YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET KEI COME OUT AND SEE US?
WE HEARD THAT SHE CAME OVER HERE
YES, BUT SHE LEFT AGAIN IMMEDIATELY. SHE'S NOT HERE NOW.

LET'S JUST ASSUME FOR A MOMENT THAT KEI REALLY HAS LEFT.
IF THAT'S TRUE...
...THEN WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?

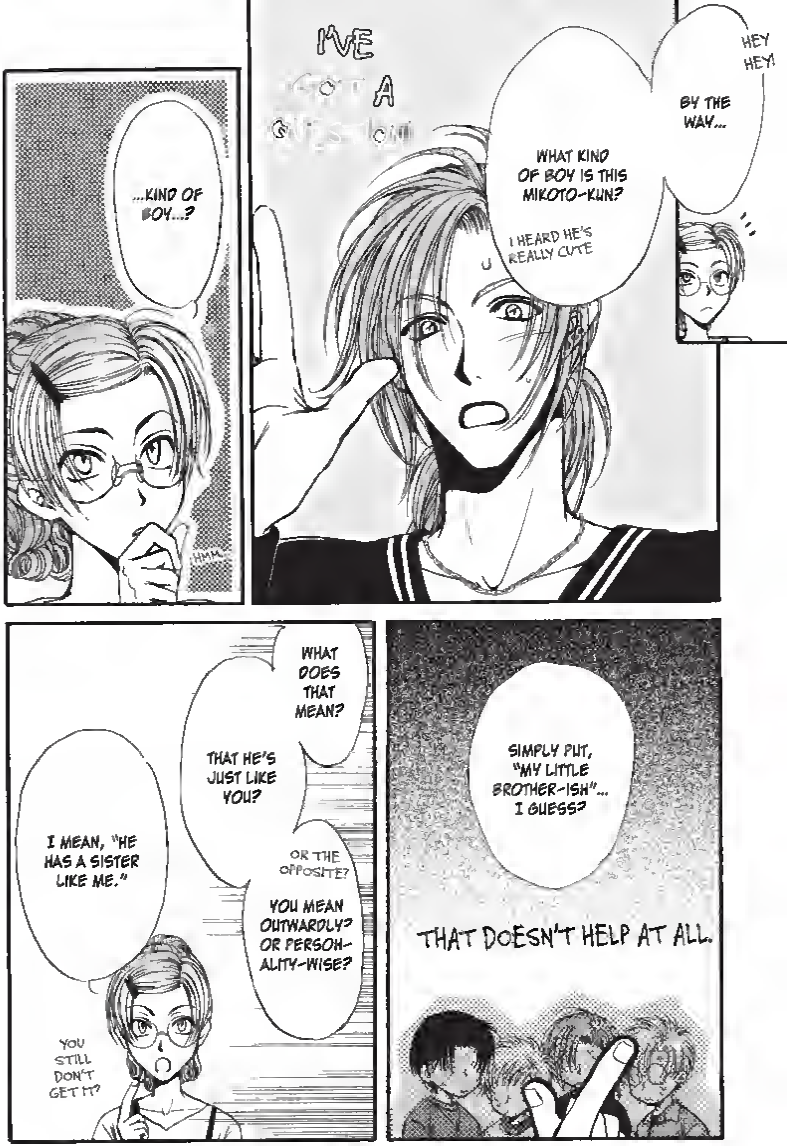
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE HEARD THAT KEI HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT FOND OF YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.
I HIGHLY DOUBT THIS, BUT...
COULD IT BE THAT SHE'S OUT WITH HIM RIGHT NOW?
MY, HOW NEWS GETS AROUND!
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'VE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD. MEGUMI IS OUT WITH MY LITTLE BROTHER.
にっこり SMILE
NO WAY...!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU...
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D USE YOUR OWN FAMILY.
JUST TO LET YOU KNOW, I REALLY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
DON'T START RUMORS!
SO, YOU'RE SAYING YOU HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS?
EVEN I'M SURPRISED AT THIS TURN OF EVENTS.
BLUNT
OF COURSE I HELPED THINGS ALONG, YES.
SO YOU DID HAVE SOME THING TO DO WITH IT!

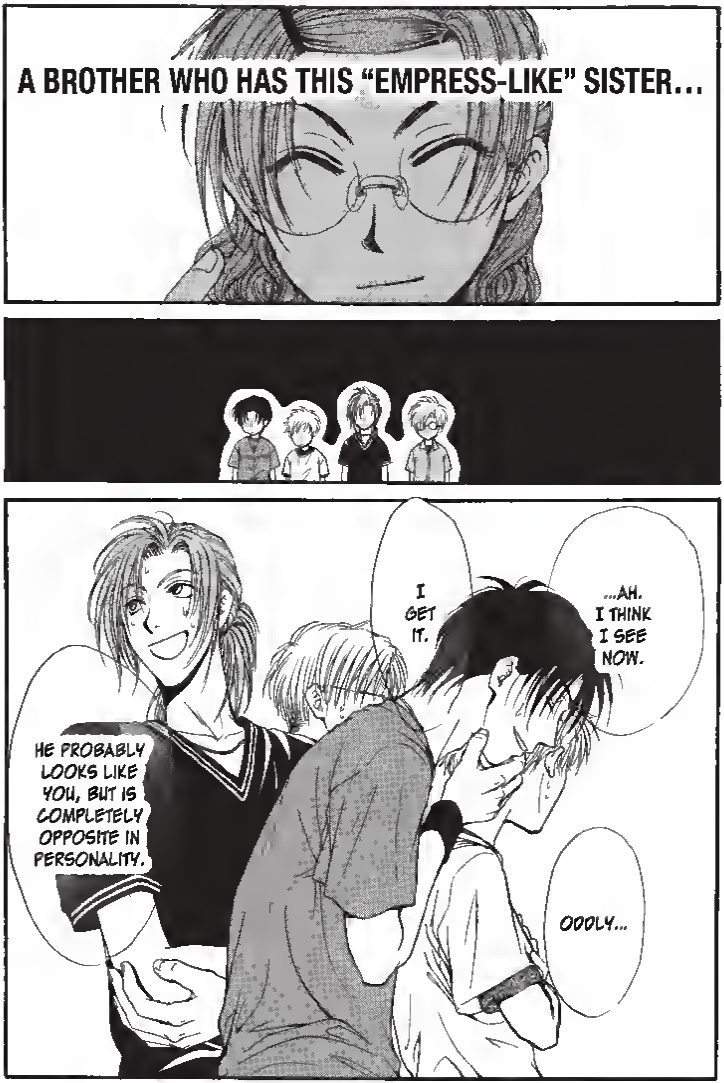
BUT IT'S TRUE THAT I NEVER IMAGINED MEGUMI WOULD BECOME SO FOND OF MIKOTO.
ONE OF THE REASONS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THAT SHE WAS DESPERATE TO ESCAPE FROM YOU FOUR, AFTER YOU SHOWED UP AT HER HOUSE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER VACATION.
I GUESS MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS AS GOOD AN ESCAPE AS ANY!
OH BOY...
YIKES, I GUESS WE PUSHED TOO HARD
YOU MEAN IT BACK FIRED?
WE WERE TOO EAGER.
HMM
FOR NOW, HER FEELINGS DON'T SEEM TO RUN TOWARD ANYTHING ROMANTIC SO I DON'T KNOW HOW THINGS WILL TURN OUT, BUT...
SHE IS FOND OF HIM AND LETS DOWN HER GUARD WITH HIM, SO IN THAT SENSE, I THINK MY BROTHER HAS THE UPPER HAND.
HE DOESN'T KNOW THE OLD "KEI" DIRECTLY, EITHER.
NOW ALL SHE NEEDS IS SOME KIND OF CUE.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR ACTIONS WILL PROMPT THE CHANGE IN HER, FOR GOOD OR FOR BAD.

FOR GOOD OR FOR BAD. SO IT'S A GAMBLE, HUH?
BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE WORST CASE SCENARIO IS ASSURED.
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO SOMETHING, NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME MAY BE.
SO...WE'D LIKE YOU TO TELL US THEIR WHEREABOUTS... WON'T YOU?
UNLIKELY, BUT...
...OKAY.
HUH?!
NO WAY! SERI-OUSLY?!
JUST LIKE THAT?!
TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD COOPERATE. WHY THE CHANGE?
YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING UP YOUR SLEEVE
THEY COULD RUN NOW, BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOU EVENTU-ALLY, RIGHT?
SO I JUST THOUGHT, THE EARLIER THE BETTER.
OF COURSE THERE'S NOTHING UP MY SLEEVE HOW RUDE!
AND BESIDES...

. I'M FOND OF MY LITTLE BROTHER, TOO, AND I'D LIKE TO HELP HIM OUT.
BUT I'VE ALSO REALIZED THAT I DON'T WANT TO LET MEGUMI GO, EITHER.
SO, EVEN THOUGH I'M FEELING CONFLICTED, I THOUGHT I COULD ACT AS THE INTERMEDIARY.
THAT'S ALL
I SEE...SO, INASMUCH AS YOU DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO TAKE KEI AWAY FROM YOU, YOU'RE THE SAME AS US.
OH...NOT AT ALL.
CHUCKLE
HO
WHAT'S MINE IS MINE... WHAT'S MY BROTHER'S IS MINE.
THEREFORE, EVEN IF MEGUMI BECOMES MY BROTHER'S, IT STILL MEANS SHE'S MINE.
ジャイアニズム!
THE GIANT-ISM!*
IN OTHER WORDS, MEGUMI CURRENTLY BELONGS TO ME...BUT EVEN IF MY BROTHER CLAIMS HER, SHE'S STILL MINE AS WELL. KEEP THAT IN MIND.
I AM MOST CERTAINLY NOT THE SAME AS YOU
WOW

*NOTE: GIANT (JAI-AN) IS THE NAME OF THE BULLY IN THE CLASSIC MANGA "DORAEMON"


I'VE GOT A
...KIND OF BOY...?
HMM...
WHAT KIND OF BOY IS THIS MIKOTO-KUN?
I HEARD HE'S REALLY CUTE
BY THE WAY...
HEY HEY!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THAT HE'S JUST LIKE YOU?
OR THE OPPOSITE?
YOU MEAN OUTWARDLY? OR PERSONALITY-WISE?
I MEAN, "HE HAS A SISTER LIKE ME."
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?
SIMPLY PUT, "MY LITTLE BROTHER-ISH"... I GUESS?
THAT DOESN'T HELP AT ALL.


A BROTHER WHO HAS THIS "EMPRESS-LIKE" SISTER...
HE PROBABLY LOOKS LIKE YOU, BUT IS COMPLETELY OPPOSITE IN PERSONALITY.
I GET IT.
...AH. I THINK I SEE NOW.
OOOLY...

HUH? BUT YOU GO OUT WITH MAKOTO ALL THE TIME, RIGHT?
I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN OUT IN A LONG TIME!
OH I KNOW, I KNOW
IT MEANS SPENDING HOURS AND HOURS LOOKING FOR CLOTHES AND BAGS AND SHOES AND ACCESSORIES.
GOING OUT WITH MAKOTO FEELS MORE LIKE AN ENDURANCE TEST.
THE HORRORS OF A FEMALE'S SHOPPING EXPEDITION
SHE ALWAYS MAKES ME HAUL HER BAGS AROUND
YEAH YEAH
OH MAN, THIS IS GREAT ♡
OH...!
I HAD TONS OF FUN, BUT...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DRAGGED YOU AROUND TO ALL THOSE PLACES I WANTED TO GO...DID THAT MAKE YOU MAD?

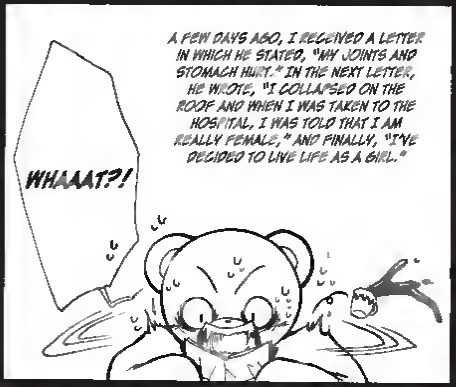
NO NO! I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PLACE IN PARTICULAR I WANTED TO GO, SO I HAD PLENTY OF FUN!
I'M JUST HAPPY HAVING BEEN ABLE TO GO OUT WITH YOU.
MAKOTO'S SO LUCKY... TO HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER LIKE THIS.
H... HE'S SOO CUTE!! I WANT TO NOOGIE HIM...
BUT HE'D PROBABLY GET MAD IF I DID!
I WANT MIKOTO, TOO...
PANG
"WHY NOT CONSIDER MAKING HIM YOUR STEADY?"
HAH
IF I MADE HIM MY BOY-FRIEND ....!!
THIS WOULD BE MINE ...?!
SLURRP
HAH
NO, NO. I'M BEING INFLUENCED BY MAKOTO'S WORDS.

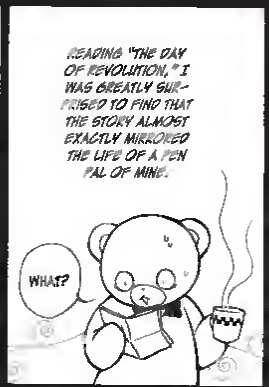
I PLAN ON TAKING OVER OUR FAMILY'S HOSPITAL SOMEDAY, SO IT JUST SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO GET STARTED ON THAT PATH EARLY.
MY SCHOOL'S ATTACHED TO A MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, SO IT'S THE BEST PLACE FOR MY FUTURE AS A DOCTOR.
HEY, SO WHY DO YOU GO TO A SCHOOL SO FAR AWAY THAT YOU HAVE TO LIVE IN THE DORMS?
WASN'T THERE SOMEPLACE CLOSER THAT YOU COULD ATTEND?
IF ONLY HE DIDN'T LIVE IN THE DORMS, I COULD SEE HIM EVERY DAY!
BUT... ONCE SUMMER VACATION IS OVER... I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HIM ANYMORE.
HUH? ME?
YEAH.
I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S GREAT, MISS MEGUMI!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
WOW!
THAT'S SO SMART OF YOU!!
WOW! YOU'RE GREAT!!

YOU LIVED YOUR ENTIRE LIFE AS A BOY, BUT YOU MADE THE DECISION TO START OVER AS A GIRL. RIGHT?
IF IT WERE ME, I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER HAVE MADE THAT DECISION, MISTAKEN GENDER OR NOT.
BUT EVEN I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW HARD IT MUST BE TO DECIDE AND CHANGE YOUR WHOLE LIFESTYLE...
THAT'S WHY I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S GREAT.
OH...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAS SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO ME!
HE REALLY IS A GOOD GUY
EVERYONE AROUND ME HAS ALWAYS JUST BEEN HAPPY THAT I BECAME A GIRL...I MEAN, THAT WAS ALL RIGHT TOO, BUT...
NO ONE'S EVER TRIED TO SEE THINGS FROM MY PERSPECTIVE BEFORE.
GRAB
がばぁ
YOU'RE THE BEST! I WANT YOU!!
WHAT?! HUH?!
"WANT..."?!

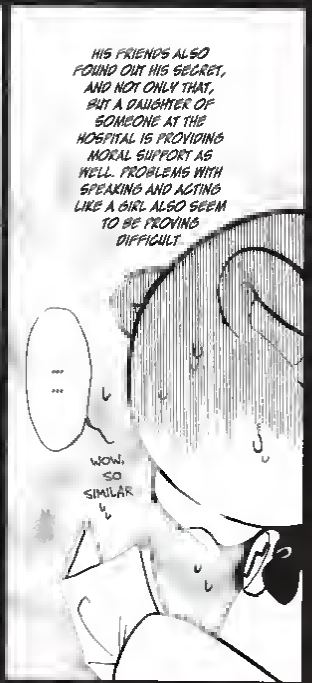
ばっ
OKAY, YOU TWO, THAT'S A LITTLE TOO CLOSE. MOVE APART!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
HEY YA!
YOU GUYS! AND MAKOTO, TOO!!

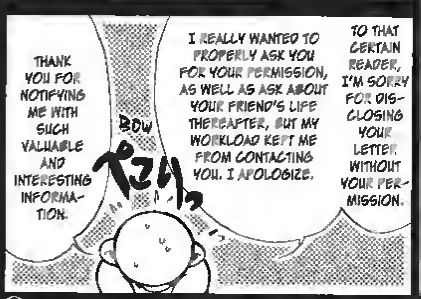
A TALE OF STRANGE COINCIDENCE — ONE READER'S LETTER —


WHAAAT?!
A FEW DAYS AGO, I RECEIVED A LETTER IN WHICH HE STATED, "MY JOINTS AND STOMACH HURT." IN THE NEXT LETTER, HE WROTE, "I COLLAPSED ON THE ROOF AND WHEN I WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL, I WAS TOLD THAT I AM REALLY FEMALE," AND FINALLY, "I'VE DECIDED TO LIVE LIFE AS A GIRL."

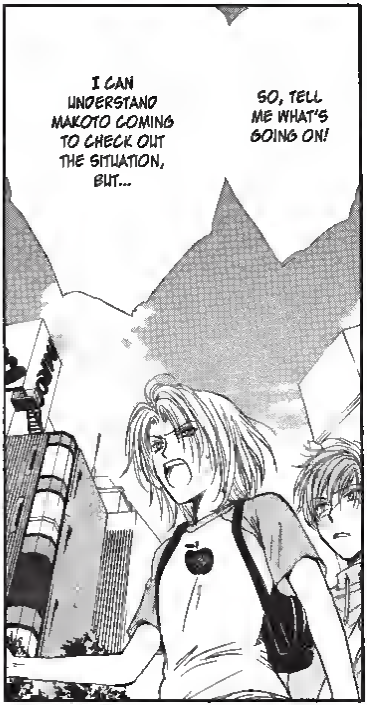

READING "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION," I WAS GREATLY SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THE STORY ALMOST EXACTLY MIRRORED THE LIFE OF A PEN PAL OF MINE.
WHAT?

EVEN THOUGH THE SIMILARITIES ARE COMPLETELY COINCIDENTAL, I HOPE THAT PERSON DOESN'T FEEL AFFRONTED OR INSULTED BY "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION"!
PLEASE KEEP THIS BOOK A SECRET FROM THAT PERSON!
BUT WHEN COINCIDENTAL SIMILARITIES PILE UP TO THIS EXTENT... IT'S SORT OF FRIGHTENING
THROUGH RESEARCH, I KNEW THAT SUCH INSTANCES EXISTED ..BUT THE GENERAL FLOW OF THE STORY WAS COMPLETELY FICTIONAL AND MADE UP BY ME!
COLLAPSED ON THE ROOF, SUPPORTED BY A DAUGHTER OF SOMEONE AT THE HOSPITAL (ALTHOUGH TO BE EXACT, MAKOTO IS A NIECE). DECIDING TO LIVE AS A GIRL (MOST DECIDE TO STAY AS THEY ARE). JOINTS HURTING.
UH UM..


HIS FRIENDS ALSO FOUND OUT HIS SECRET, AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT A DAUGHTER OF SOMEONE AT THE HOSPITAL IS PROVIDING MORAL SUPPORT AS WELL. PROBLEMS WITH SPEAKING AND ACTING LIKE A GIRL ALSO SEEM TO BE PROVING DIFFICULT.
...
WOW. SO SIMILAR


THANK YOU FOR NOTIFYING ME WITH SUCH VALUABLE AND INTERESTING INFORMATION.
BOW
I REALLY WANTED TO PROPERLY ASK YOU FOR YOUR PERMISSION, AS WELL AS ASK ABOUT YOUR FRIEND'S LIFE THEREAFTER, BUT MY WORKLOAD KEPT ME FROM CONTACTING YOU. I APOLOGIZE.
TO THAT CERTAIN READER, I'M SORRY FOR DISCLOSING YOUR LETTER WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION.

BUSTLE
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
I MUST SAY, EVEN THOUGH WE KNEW YOUR DESTINATION...IN THIS THRONG OF PEOPLE...


I CAN UNDERSTAND MAKOTO COMING TO CHECK OUT THE SITUATION, BUT...
SO, TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!

IT WAS ACTUALLY QUITE A GAMBLE LOOKING FOR YOU HERE!
...I DIDN'T THINK WE'D ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO FIND YOU!
IT MUST BE FATE AFTER ALL.

HI~
はぁ～い♡
...WHAT ARE THESE GUYS DOING HERE?!
WELL, TO PUT IT BRIEFLY...
THESE GUYS CAME KNOCKING DOWN THE DOOR AT MY HOUSE LOOKING FOR YOU.
THEY ALSO WANTED TO HAVE A LOOK AT THIS LITTLE BROTHER OF MINE YOU'VE BECOME SO FOND OF.
AND YOU BROUGHT THEM HERE? WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, ANYWAY?!
UHH.. WELL... YOU KNOW... ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER AND...
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE MY ALLY?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS SO GUNG-HO ABOUT ME GOING OUT WITH HIROTO!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

WELL, I MEAN...THEY WERE BOUND TO MEET YOU GUYS SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!!
FFT...
パッ
GLANCE
HMM..
SO, YOU'RE MIKOTO-KUN.

HIS FACE DOES RESEMBLE MISS MAKOTO'S.
I THINK HE'S EVEN SHORTER THAN KEI!
HE SEEMS A LOT MORE HONEST, PERSONALITY-WISE.
JUST WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS KID DO YOU THINK KEI IS ATTRACTED TO?
PROBABLY THIS MATCHING HEIGHT.
THUMP
THUMP
HMM.
KEI USED TO BE PRETTY SENSITIVE ABOUT HIS HEIGHT IN THE PAST.
IT COULD BE
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, TACHIMACHI'S NOT MUCH DIFFERENT IN HEIGHT EITHER.
HEY, I'M 4.7 CM TALLER THAN KEI.
NOW, THAT IS
THEN PERHAPS IT'S THIS CUTE DEMEANOR THAT LACKS ANY HINT OF MASCULINITY?
HE LOOKS KINDER THAN HIS BIG SISTER, WHICH MAKES HIM CUTER
LIFT
MRRRGH
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WE CAN BE CUTE TOO, YOU KNOW!!
LOOK LOOK!
LOOK AT ME!
"CUTE" IS ALREADY BEYOND YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR HULKING SIZE, TOBA.
HA HA HA!
IT'S TRUE!
H, HOW CRUEL!
DOOOM!

— DAMN...!
CLARE
THESE PEOPLE... THEY SEEM CONFIDENT...
IT'S LIKE THEY DON'T EVEN CONSIDER ME COMPETITION...
I SEE...
HMM...
I DON'T THINK I WANT HIM GETTING CLOSE TO KEI.
HE MIGHT BE TROUBLE AFTER ALL...
OH, WE HAVEN'T PROPERLY INTRODUCED OURSELVES, HAVE WE?
LET'S.

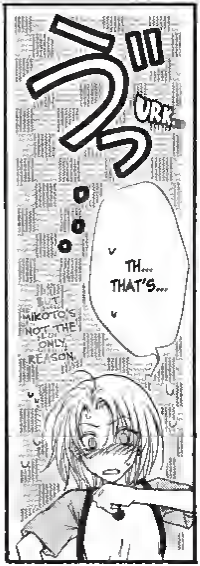
YOU SEE, WE'RE ALL GOOD FRIENDS OF KEI'S...AND WE'RE ALL IN LOVE WITH HER AS WELL.
LOOM
I'M SHINMEI.
HI!
KAWADA.
I'M TOBA!
TACHIMACHI
AFTER BEING IGNORED BY HER ALL THIS TIME, ONLY TO HEAR THAT SHE'S TURNED HER ATTENTIONS TOWARD YOU...
AS HER SELF-PROCLAIMED SUITORS, WE'RE NOT VERY HAPPY ABOUT THIS TURN OF EVENTS.
— HUH?
WAIT... COULD THIS BE?
THEY'RE JEALOUS OF ME?

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I CAN'T LET THEM GET TO ME!!
B-BUT WHAT IF THE RABBIT WANTED TO BE TAKEN FROM YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
OH...I SEE... IT'S NOT THAT THEY DON'T CONSIDER ME A THREAT.
ON THE CONTRARY... THEY SEE ME AS SUCH A THREAT THAT THEY HAVE TO TRY TO INTIMIDATE ME...?
WE'RE LIKE HUNTERS THAT HAVE HAD THEIR PREY RABBIT SNATCHED AWAY BY A WILY FOX.
YOU CAN SEE HOW WE'D BE ANNOYED.
THIS...
THEY'RE THREATENING ME...AREN'T THEY?
I THINK...
I'M SURE YOU CAN ALSO SEE HOW WE'D LIKE TO ELIMINATE ANY COMPETITION.

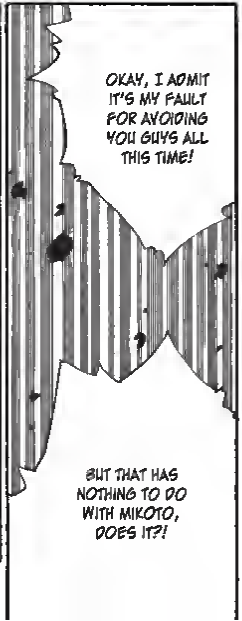
MAYBE SHE'D RATHER BE NABBED BY SOMEONE ELSE!!
SST.
YOU...
ビク
FLINCH!

SO THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING TO PURSUE US!
OWWWW!
...ARE NOT ONLY CUTE ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT ON THE INSIDE AS WELL!!
HE HE HE HE HEH!
PULLL
GGGGGG...
HWAH HAR OO WOOING ?!
SQUEEEEZE
HEY!!
MAKES ME WANT TO PINCH YOUR WIDDLE CHEEKS
WHAT A CUTE THING TO SAY!
OW OW OUCH!

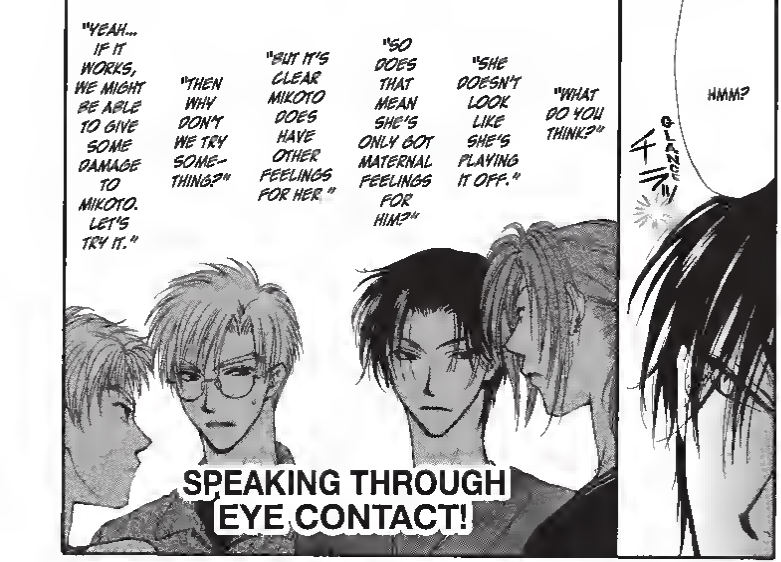
ばばばばっ
WHOOSH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MIKOTO?! CUT IT OUT!!
STING
STING

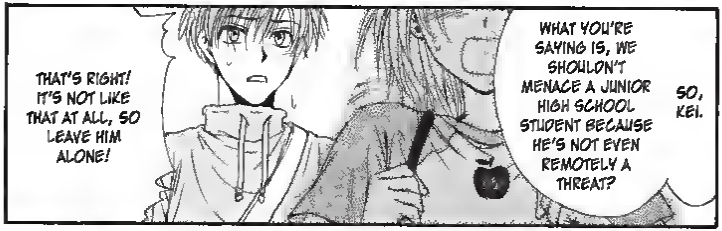

うぅ
CURL
TH... THAT'S...
MIKOTO'S NOT THE ONLY REASON

THE WHOLE TIME YOU WERE IGNORING US, YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING YOUR TIME WITH HIM, RIGHT?
NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM? ARE YOU SURE?
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH HIM...DON'T YOU THINK?


OKAY, I ADMIT IT'S MY FAULT FOR AVOIDING YOU GUYS ALL THIS TIME!
BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MIKOTO, DOES IT?!

AND ANYWAY, THE FACT THAT YOU'VE BEEN WITH ANOTHER GUY THIS WHOLE TIME IS WHAT GETS ON OUR NERVES.
IF YOU'D BEEN WITH MISS MIKOTO, WE'D UNDERSTAND, BUT
YEAH, YEAH!
YOU TELL 'EM!
WE DON'T WANT ANY OTHER DUDES NEAR YOU.
GEEZ.. SURE, MIKOTO'S A GUY...BUT HE'S STILL ONLY IN JUNIOR HIGH!
はぁ!
SIGH...
DON'T LABEL HIM AS A RIVAL JUST BECAUSE YOU FEEL THREATENED!
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM!
!!!
OH?
UH-OH.
THIS ISN'T GOOD..
ドキン


"YEAH... IF IT WORKS, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE SOME DAMAGE TO MIKOTO. LET'S TRY IT."
"THEN WHY DON'T WE TRY SOME-THING?"
"BUT IT'S CLEAR MIKOTO DOES HAVE OTHER FEELINGS FOR HER."
"SO DOES THAT MEAN SHE'S ONLY GOT MATERNAL FEELINGS FOR HIM?"
"SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S PLAYING IT OFF."
"WHAT DO YOU THINK?"
HMM?
GLANCE
SPEAKING THROUGH EYE CONTACT!


THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL, SO LEAVE HIM ALONE!
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS, WE SHOULDN'T MENACE A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BECAUSE HE'S NOT EVEN REMOTELY A THREAT?
SO, KEI.

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE USING THE FACT THAT HE'S YOUNGER AS AN EXCUSE TO GET US TO LEAVE HIM ALONE.
...THE MORE YOU PROTECT MIKOTO-KUN LIKE THAT, THE MORE WE THINK HE'S PRECIOUS TO YOU
SO YOU SAY, BUT ..

ばきぃっ
WHAM
PUNCH!
I DON'T REALLY THINK OF HIM AS A MAN OR THAT WAY AT ALL!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT REALLY TRYING TO PUT US OFF?
IT'S SUSPICIOUS
I...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! I SWEAR!!
SURE, I DID BRIEFLY CONSIDER MAKING HIM MY "BOYFRIEND" IF IT MEANT I COULD HAVE HIM NEAR, BUT...!
PANIC
どりっおっ
BLAM
IF ANYTHING, I FEEL A KINSHIP WITH HIM BECAUSE WE'VE HAD THE SAME EXPERIENCES... I CONSIDER HIM MORE LIKE A FRIEND! THAT'S ALL!
YKK!
UGH.
すづぉお
SOCKO!
BUT THE CLOSEST I CAN DESCRIBE IT IS THAT HE'S LIKE A CUTE LITTLE YOUNGER BROTHER TO ME!!
DRILL
DRILL
DOUBLE ATTACK!!
おんっ

OH.
HE'S DOWN.
COME ON, YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE UP OVER A LITTLE THING LIKE THIS.
PITIFUL.
キュア CLARE
WHY YOU!
YOU LIED TO ME..
HOW DARE YOU!
I KEPT QUIET ABOUT THE FACT THAT MEGUMI CONSIDERS HIM AS A LITTLE BROTHER BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM...
OH, BOY
BUT MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM AFTER ALL?
ぷしゅー
HIZUI...
I DIDN'T LIE. I JUST DIDN'T MENTION IT.
がくり
SLUMP

SO WHAT IF SHE DOESN'T YET SEE YOU AS A MAN? IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE'S FOND OF YOU.
YOU JUST HAVE TO KEEP TRYING TO CHANGE HER PERCEPTION OF YOU, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT...
I COULD INTERVENE AND HELP MIKOTO OUT, BUT...
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER FOR HIM IN THE LONG RUN IF I STICK TO BEING A BYSTANDER.
YUP!
WHISH!
ボソリ
MUTTERING
BUT...
IF YOU CAN'T HOLD YOUR OWN, YOU AREN'T REALLY QUALIFIED FOR ME TO HAND MEGUMI OVER TO YOU.

HEY, AND YOU KNOW WHAT? MIKOTO'S GREAT!
HE'S ONLY IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT HE'S ALREADY THINKING ABOUT HIS FUTURE!
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT HE'S SO CONSIDERATE THAT HE CAN AFFORD TO BE KIND TO ME, TOO...WHAT A NICE GUY.
ほっ
SIGH...
GLOWER
じと
ほっ
HUH?

あはっ
HA HA
OH JEEZ, WHAT AM I SAYING?!
あはははは
HA HA HA HA HA
BUT HE REALLY IS A NICE GUY, SO I WANTED TO GIVE HIM PROPS!

UH-OH... THESE WORDS WILL ONLY BACKFIRE ON THESE GUYS...!
NOT GOOD.

THE KID SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PUT DOWN FOR THE COUNT THANKS TO KEI'S CRUSHING WORDS, BUT...

...IS IT JUST ME, OR WERE WE JUST SUBJECTED TO SOME MUSHY GUNK ABOUT ANOTHER DUDE?

YEAH...

MAN, THAT'S ANNOYING.

I SUPPOSE NOT... THE FACT THAT SHE DOESN'T FEEL THREATENED BY ME POINTS TO THAT.
SO, SHE DOESN'T THINK OF ME AS A MAN AT ALL.
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE IT EARLIER...?
IT'S BECAUSE MAKOTO LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT OUR FEELINGS WERE MUTUAL!
GLARE
DANG YOU
OH, WELL... I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACT ON MY FEELINGS IF I HADN'T BEEN PUSHED.
AND... I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE, EITHER...
OKAY, WE GET THE PICTURE.
HUH?

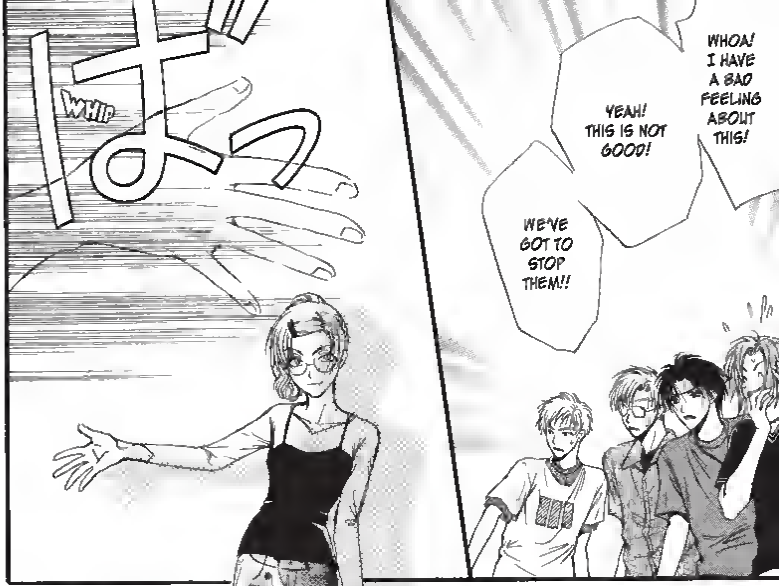
WE WERE WRONG TO HAVE BEEN THREATENED BY SOMEONE SHE DOESN'T EVEN CONSIDER A MAN!
IN OTHER WORDS, KEI...
ONLY SEES YOU AS HER LITTLE BROTHER.
SOMEONE SHORTER THAN KEI COULD NEVER BE A SUITABLE PARTNER.
OF COURSE. A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT IS STILL JUST A KID AFTER ALL
THUD
RUBBING SALT IN THE WOUND.

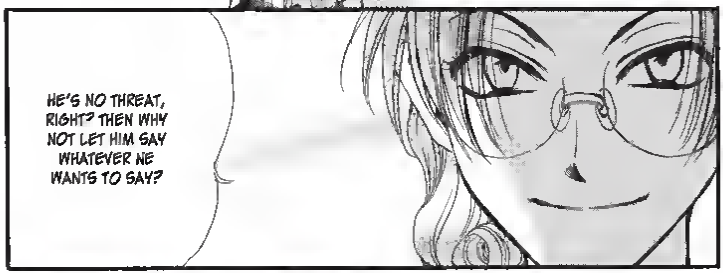
THUNK
Y...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! I DON'T THINK OF MIKOTO THAT WAY AT ALL. SO DON'T BULLY HIM, OKAY?
? IS IT ME, OR DID THEIR COMMENTS FEEL BARBED ?
EIAVISHIN-SCOW
TRIPPLE-FARMER-CROPDUSTER-PRO

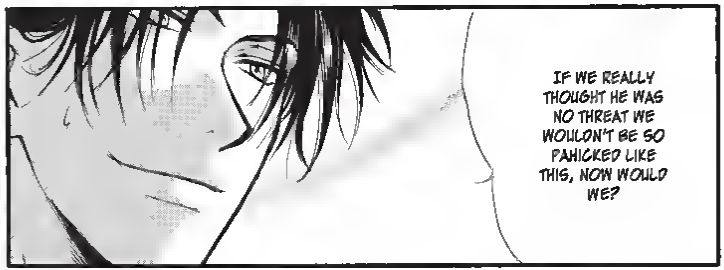
LURCH
SQUEAK
BRACE!
—THEY'RE DOING IT ON PURPOSE...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
CAN I REALLY WIN AGAINST GUYS LIKE THESE...?
NO...THE BIGGER PROBLEM IS THE FACT THAT MISS MEGUMI DOESN'T SEE ME AS A MAN.
THEY PINPOINTED THE WEAKNESS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP AND ATTACKED EXACTLY WHERE I WOULD RECEIVE THE MOST DAMAGE!!
MAKOTO WAS RIGHT. THESE GUYS ARE FOLLOWERS TO BE RECKONED WITH!!
IT'S ON PURPOSE! IT'S GOT TO BE!!

YOU'RE THE BEST! I WANT YOU!!
HER PAST CONDUCT SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT HOW SHE SEES ME.
I'M OBVIOUSLY JUST A BEST FRIEND OR SOMETHING.
WAIT?! HUH?
...WAIT...
THOSE WORDS...SHE MAY JUST HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PROTECT ME, BUT THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT THOSE ARE HER TRUE FEELINGS.
AFTER ALL, I'M YOUNGER AND SHORTER AND HAVE A FEMININE FACE LIKE MY SISTER...
THAT'S RIGHT!
IF SHE HAS TO PROTECT ME LIKE THIS..
...IT'S NO WONDER SHE DOESN'T SEE ME AS A MAN.
I HAVE TO MAKE HER SEE ME, FOR WHO I AM!
I HAVE TO MAKE HER FACE ME!!
THINGS HAVE TO CHANGE.
ぎゅっ
CLENCH

MISS MEGUMI ...!


WHIP
WHOA! I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS!
YEAH! THIS IS NOT GOOD!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!!


HE'S NO THREAT, RIGHT? THEN WHY NOT LET HIM SAY WHATEVER HE WANTS TO SAY?


IF WE REALLY THOUGHT HE WAS NO THREAT WE WOULDN'T BE SO PANICKED LIKE THIS, NOW WOULD WE?

I SEE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO SIDE WITH MIKOTO-KUN IN THE END AFTER ALL.
NO, I'M MERELY THE NEUTRAL CENTE..
YOU GUYS HAVE ALREADY DECLARED YOUR FEELINGS FOR MEGUMI, HAVEN'T YOU?
THEN IT WOULD BE UNFAIR NOT TO LET MIKOTO DO THE SAME.
HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER, MIKOTO?
MISS MEGUMI... I...

I'M ALSO SHORTER THAN YOU (JUST A LITTLE BIT)...
MY FRIENDS TREAT ME LIKE A PLAYTHING...
AND I'VE BEEN PURSUED BY OTHER BOYS...
AND...
DOOOOM...
FILLED WITH SELF-PITY AT HIS OWN WORDS!
I KNOW I'M STILL IMMATURE, BUT...
BUT...!
IT'S TRUE THAT I'M STILL ONLY IN JUNIOR HIGH, STILL JUST A KID. AND THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T REGARD ME AS A MAN!
OR AS A CANDIDATE FOR YOUR LOVE!

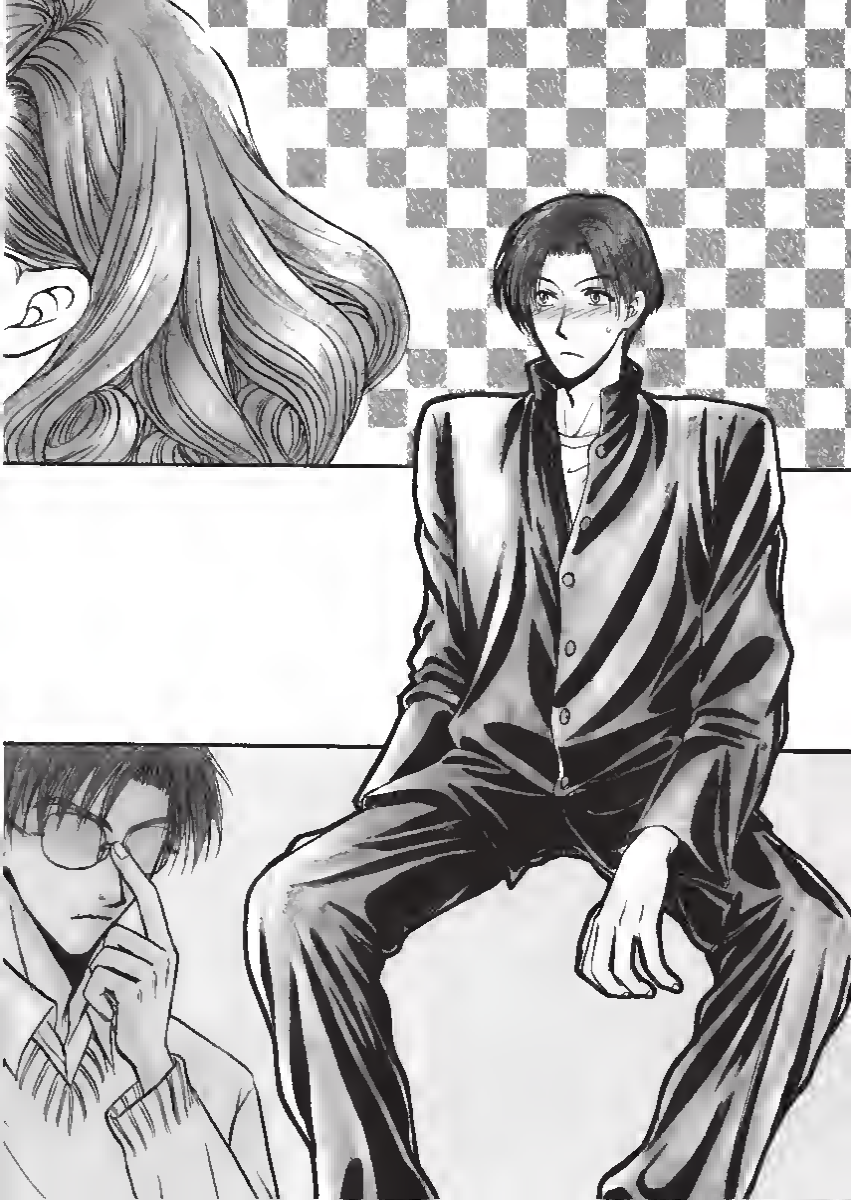
I'LL TRY REALLY HARD! I'LL TRY TO BECOME A MAN THAT'S WORTHY OF YOU, SO I WANT YOU TO SEE ME FOR WHO I AM!
BECAUSE I'M IN LOVE WITH THE WOMAN YOU ARE, MISS MEGUMI!
HE SAID IT!
ARGH.
OH, NO...
HE SAID IT!

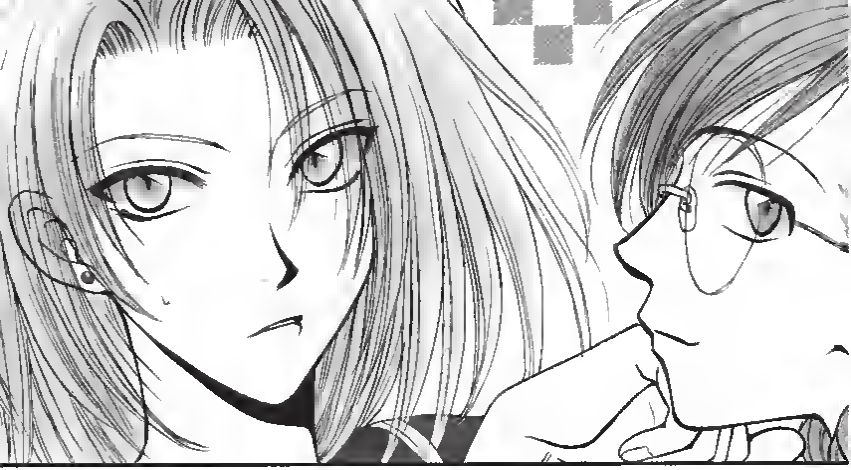
U... UMM...
MIKOTO JUST SAID HE LOVED ME... RIGHT...?
GLANCE
AND HE SAID AS A "WOMAN" SO HE MEANS IT IN A ROMANTIC WAY... RIGHT?
...IN LOVE...
MIKOTO...
...WITH ME?
BA-THUMP...!

OH?
IT CAN'T BE...
KEI —?!
HUHHH —?!
BA-THUMP
HUH?
BA-THUMP
I FEEL...
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
FLUSH
HUH?
BA-THUMP
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS? MY HEART ..IS RACING!
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP

BUT...
ON THIS DAY, I THINK I'VE MET WITH ANOTHER HUGE REVOLUTION IN MY LIFE.
...
NO NO NO! I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT!
IS THIS FAIR?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS ...?
NO WAY...
TIME OUT!
BUT...
NO, THERE'S STILL HOPE.
HMM.
IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE I MET WITH THE DAY OF REVOLUTION IN THE FIFTEENTH YEAR OF MY LIFE.
SHE'S FINALLY BLOSSOMED!
UM... MISS MEGUMI ...?
AND EVERY DAY AFTER THAT HAS BEEN A SERIES OF LITTLE REVOLUTIONS.
THE DAY OF REVOLUTION 2
END

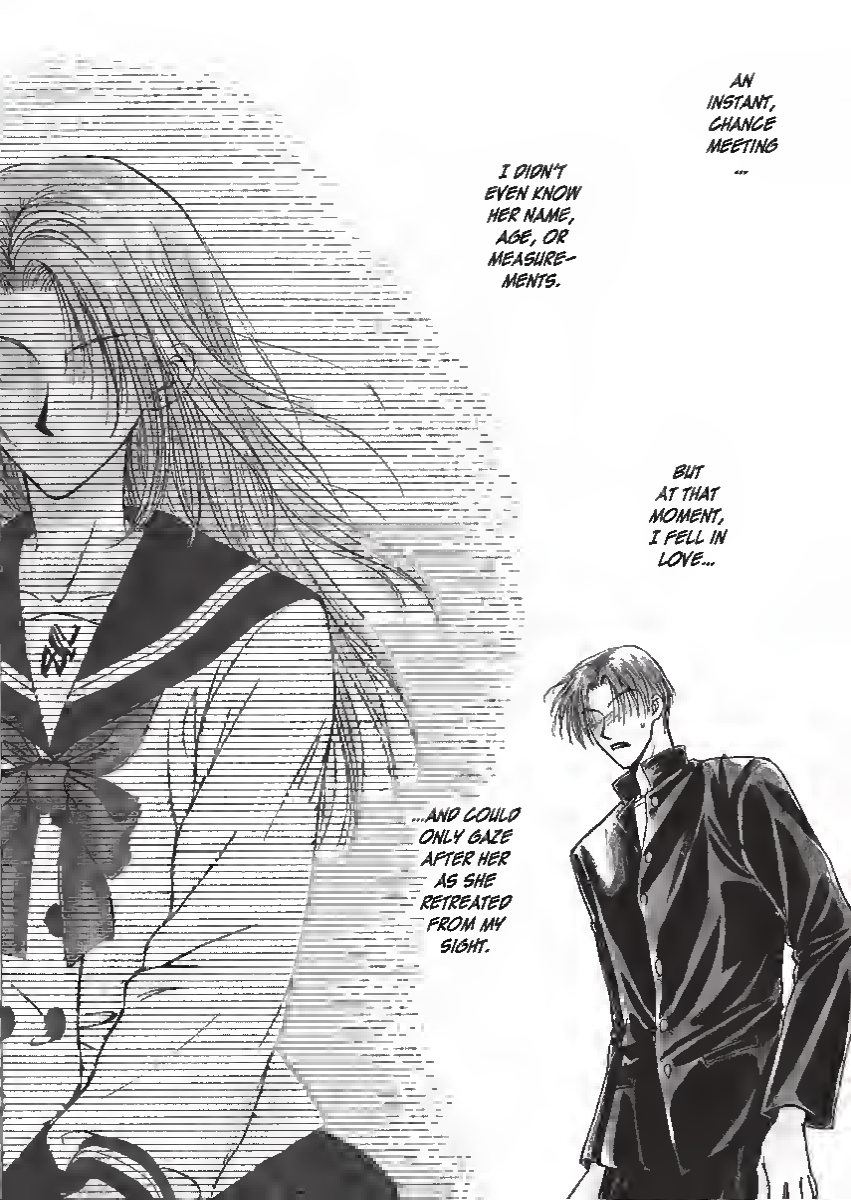
運命の日
THE DAY OF FATE
...AT TIMES...
...THE FLOWER OF LOVE CAN BLOOM AT FIRST SIGHT.





運命の日

THE DAY OF FATE


AN INSTANT, CHANCE MEETING ...
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME, AGE, OR MEASURE-MENTS.
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, I FELL IN LOVE...
...AND COULD ONLY GAZE AFTER HER AS SHE RETREATED FROM MY SIGHT.

MY NAME IS KOUHEI ASOU.
I TRANSFERRED HERE THIS SPRING OF MY SECOND YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL, TO ACCOMMODATE MY PARENTS.
フフ…
HEH HEH HEH...
I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS ABOUT MYSELF, BUT I THINK I'M A PRETTY GOOD-LOOKING GUY
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THE LADIES USUALLY COME FLOCKING WITHOUT ME HAVING TO LIFT A FINGER.
I'M HANDSOME, AND I'VE GOT HEIGHT, AS WELL AS AN OUTGOING PERSONALITY
YES, THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY I AM... BUT—!!

HEY!! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YEAR SHE'S IN, BUT DO ANY OF YOU KNOW A GIRL WHO'S ABOUT 163 CM IN HEIGHT, A TOTAL HOTTIE, A COMPLETE BABE!!
NOW I'VE FINALLY MET MY SOUL MATE!!
BAM

NO NO NO! SHE REALLY IS HOT AND A TOTAL CUTIE, I TELL YOU!! ONE LOOK AND YOU'D UNDERSTAND!!
NOT TO MENTION, BEAUTY IS IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER...
"HOTTIE" IS RELATIVE TO EACH PERSON
JUST HOW MANY GIRLS DO YOU THINK THERE ARE IN THIS SCHOOL?
THEY MAKE UP HALF THE SCHOOL POPULATION!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WHA?

ARRGH! IF ONLY I HADN'T BEEN TOO STUNNED BY HER BEAUTY TO TAKE ANY ACTION AT THE TIME!!
BUT MISAE AMIMOTO FROM CLASS-5 IS UP THERE IN LOOKS, TOO.
PLUS SHE'S GOT A BIG RACK.
SHE'S MY CHOICE!
"CUTIE," HUH? WELL, THERE'S YUKA TAKAHASHI IN CLASS-3...
ALSO SASAKI AND NAKAYAMA IN THE SAME CLASS.
THOSE WOULD BE MY CHOICES
SO...WHO DO YOU THINK HE MEANS?

IF ONLY I'D CHASED AFTER HER, I COULD'VE GOTTEN HER NAME, AGE AND CELL PHONE NUMBER!!
OOOH-
DAMN!
HUH? IT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?
JUST WHAT DOES ASOU WANT WITH THIS CHICK ANYWAY?
BUT SHE'S NOT NECESSARILY THE SAME YEAR AS US, RIGHT?
TENSE

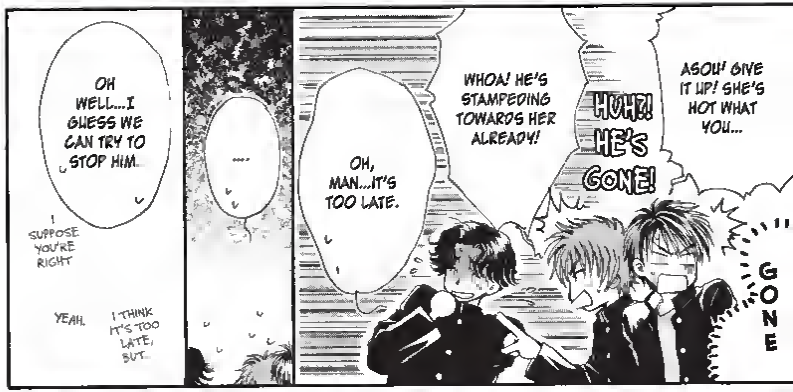
I'LL FIND YOU NO MATTER WHAT! WAIT FOR ME, MY LOVE!!!
TWINKLE
IT'S LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.
YUP
JUDGING FROM THAT

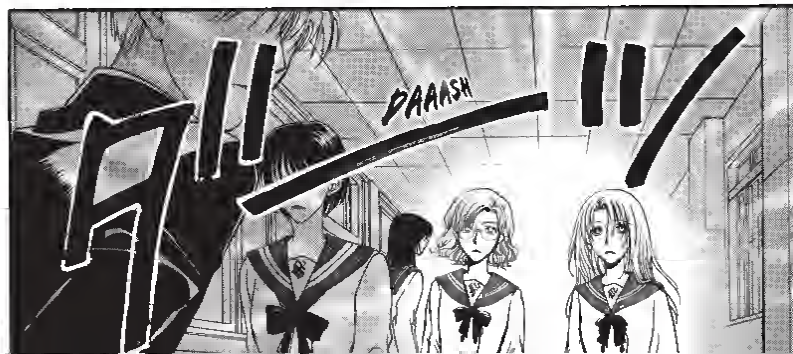
THEN SHE'S EITHER A FRESHMAN OR A SENIOR.
BUT AFTER YOU TRACK HER DOWN, WHAT IF YOU FIND OUT SHE'S ALREADY GOT A BOY-FRIEND?
YEAH, IF SHE'S AS HOT AS ASOU SAYS, THERE'S GOT TO BE OTHER GUYS AFTER HER, TOO.
とぼとぼ
TRUDGE
I TRIED CHECKING ALL THE GIRLS IN THE SECOND YEAR CLASS BUT SHE WASN'T THERE...
SLUMP
がっくり
はー
SIGH...
HUH?
ピタッ
STOP
WHAT'S WRONG, ASOU?
DON'T STOP SO SUDDENLY IN THE HALLWAY

THERE! I FOUND HER! THERE SHE IS!!
HUH?! WHERE?
WHICH ONE IS SHE?
WHERE?

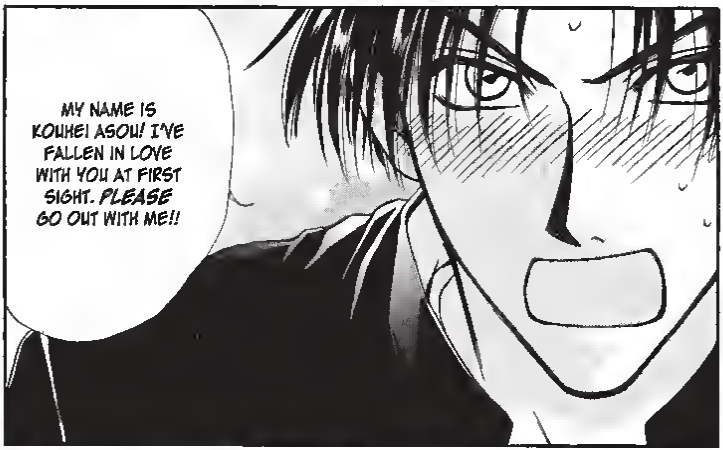
THAT ONE, THE SUPER HOTTIE!!
THERE! SHE'S JUST COMING AROUND THE CORNER TOWARDS US NOW..

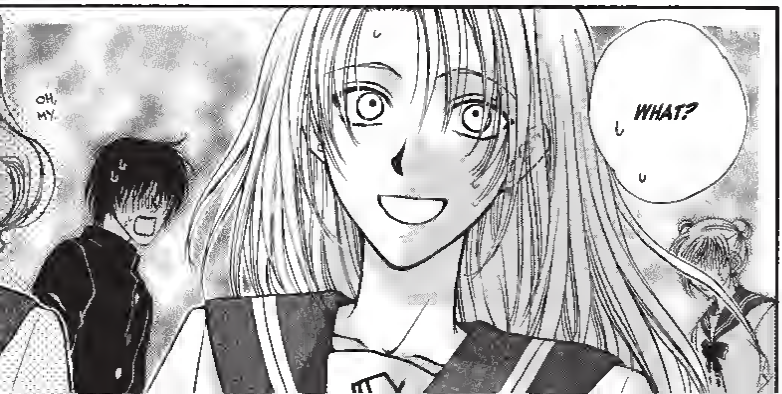
WH...WHAT?! ASOU'S CRUSH...IT'S... HER?
?!
WELL...SHE IS HOT, YEAH...BUT...
BUT HER...? OH, MAN...


ASOU! GIVE IT UP! SHE'S HOT WHAT YOU...
WHOA! HE'S STAMPEDING TOWARDS HER ALREADY!
HUH?! HE'S GONE!
GONE
OH, MAN...IT'S TOO LATE.
...
OH WELL...I GUESS WE CAN TRY TO STOP HIM.
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT
YEAH.
I THINK IT'S TOO LATE, BUT.


DAAASH

SQUEAK!
HUH? WHAT?
ME?


MY NAME IS KOUHEI ASOU! I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU AT FIRST SIGHT. PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!!


WHAT?
OH, MY.

すいっ
BLOCK
YOU'RE NEW HERE, AREN'T YOU?
スッ
FFT!
SO IF YOU COULD GIVE ME YOUR NAME AND CELL PHONE NUMBER, I...
HIS LOOKS ARE OKAY... HIS PERSONALITY IS STILL UNKNOWN, BUT FROM THE WAY HE CONFESSED SO DIRECTLY AND BOLDLY, IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD...HE SEEMS A BIT LACKING IN THE STRENGTH DEPARTMENT, THOUGH
ふーむ
HMMM
WHAT'S WITH THIS PERSON...?
IT'S OBVIOUS... FROM THE WAY YOU'RE HITTING ON THIS GIRL.
HUH...? YES, BUT...HOW DID YOU KNOW?
じろじろ
OGLE OGLE
WHAT...?
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN?

REALLY?!
HEY!!
YAY ♥
BUT I GUESS YOU CHECK OUT. YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO TALK TO HER.
NOT MANY PEOPLE COULD CONFESS AS DIRECTLY AS HE JUST DID.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
H...HEY, MAKOTO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AND ANYWAY...
IT'S ALL THOSE GUYS' FAULT!
SO JUST LOOK! ALL THESE BOYS, AND NOT ONE OF THEM EVER EVEN DARES TO STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION WITH YOU!
I SWEAR!!
EVEN AS THEY WERE GRADUATING, THEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT YOU WERE OFF LIMITS TO ANYONE ELSE.
THEY STUCK SO CLOSELY TO YOU WHILE THEY WERE STILL HERE IN SCHOOL THAT NO OTHER BOYS COULD GET CLOSE TO YOU...
THEY WERE SO THREATENING.

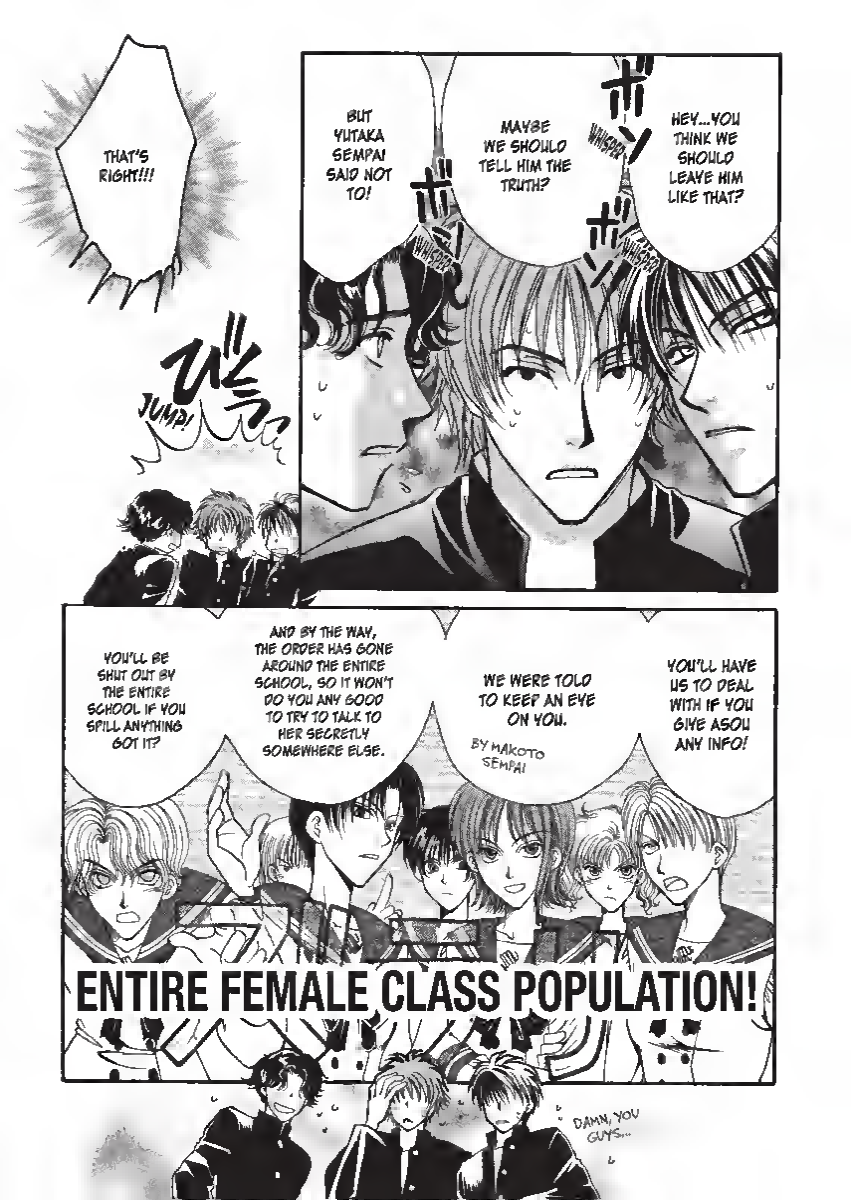
HUH? OH, YOU GUYS... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THAT GIRL... IT'S NO GOOD! SHE'S OFF-LIMITS!!
WE UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL BUT...
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE WHISPERING ABOUT...?
HEY!
HEY, ASOU!
THUMP
THUMP
MISS MEGUMI YOSHIKAWA... A SENIOR... SO SHE'S OLDER
AHHHH
UH...
HE'S NOT EVEN LISTEN-ING...
HER NAME IS MEGUMI YOSHIKAWA, AND SHE'S A SENIOR.
AS YOU CAN SEE, SHE'S THE SCHOOL'S NUMBER ONE HOTTIE, AND TOTALLY POPULAR.
BUT SHE'S...
ASOU? I'M TELLING YOU, SHE'S BACKED BY A GROUP OF...
STOP RIGHT THERE!

I'VE ALREADY GIVEN HIM MY PERMISSION TO HIT ON MEGUMI.
THEREFORE, I FORBID YOU TO GIVE HIM ANY NEEDLESS INFORMATION.
GOT IT?
ARE YOU FRIENDS OF ASOU-KUN?
FREEZE!
Y-YES..
NOD NOD NOD
ASOU-KUN!
HUH? WHAT?
FLINCH FLINCH FLINCH

WE'VE GOT TO GO NOW SO YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE US, BUT...
AS A TOKEN OF MY GOOD WILL, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS SPECIAL FREE GIFT. IT INCLUDES A PROFILE ♡
DA-DUN!
CHARLIE
BLACK MARKET PHOTOS, 100 YEN EACH (OTHERS AVAILABLE)
HEY, MAKOTO...
TURN
MAKOTO! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!
HEY!
SEE YOU AGAIN, ASOU-KUN!
YES MA'AM!
AAH!

UH-OH!
ANNOUNCE-MENT!
SPREAD WORD OF THIS INCIDENT THROUGH THE ENTIRE SCHOOL!
NO ONE IS TO HINDER KOUHEI ASOU IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER !!
Y...YES!!
STOMP
STOMP STOMP
G... GOT IT!!
EEK!
RIGHT AWAY!
UNDER-STOOD!

DDDD STOMP STOMP BUSTLE BUSTLE CLATTER CLATTER
MAKOTO...
YOU...
YOU'VE TOTALLY BECOME HEAD OF THE CAMPUS!
OR IS IT MORE LIKE CAMPUS MAFIA BOSS?
HO HO HO HO HO
RULER OF THE ENTIRE SCHOOL
ほわわん
GLOW
MEGUMI SEMPAI


THAT'S RIGHT!!!
JUMP!
BUT YUTAKA SEMPAI SAID NOT TO!
MAYBE WE SHOULD TELL HIM THE TRUTH?
HEY...YOU THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE HIM LIKE THAT?
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
YOU'LL BE SHUT OUT BY THE ENTIRE SCHOOL IF YOU SPILL ANYTHING GOT IT?
AND BY THE WAY, THE ORDER HAS GONE AROUND THE ENTIRE SCHOOL, SO IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD TO TRY TO TALK TO HER SECRETLY SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WE WERE TOLD TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.
BY MAKOTO SEMPAI
YOU'LL HAVE US TO DEAL WITH IF YOU GIVE ASOU ANY INFO!
ENTIRE FEMALE CLASS POPULATION!
DAMN, YOU GUYS...

IT'S NO GOOD...
THE ENTIRE SCHOOL IS AGAINST US!
SQUEAL
WE CAN'T HAVE ASOU-KUN GIVING UP SO EASILY, NOW CAN WE?
OF COURSE NOT! THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO BE ABLE TO SEE THEM AGAIN
EEK
IF THEY HEAR THAT SOMEONE'S NITTING ON MEGUMI SEMPAI, THEY'RE SURE TO TURN UP! RIGHT?
YEAH YEAH I HOPE THEY ALL SHOW UP. ALL FOUR OF THEM
YEAH YEAH!
YAAY!
GIGGLE
ふっ。
HEH...
ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS WATCH OVER ASOU FROM AFAR...
WE CAN DO THAT MUCH, AT LEAST.
SORRY, DUDE.
FORGIVE US FOR BEING SO SPINELESS, ASOU...
THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD DEFY THOSE GUYS AND LIVE!

OFF
WELL THEN,
YOU TWO HAVE A NICE CHAT ALONE TOGETHER ♡
TAKE YOUR TIME!
HEY!!
WHAT ARE YOU, SOME HAG WHO ARRANGES MARRIAGES OR SOMETHING?!
MAKOTO, WAIT!!
MEGUMI, YOU HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT WORD WITH ANY OTHER BOY BECAUSE OF ME AND THOSE FOUR GUYS HANGING AROUND ALL THE TIME, HAVE YOU?
IT MAY BE OKAY NOW, BUT YOU CAN'T CONTINUE LIKE THAT FOREVER... DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I.. KNOW THAT, BUT...
WELL, THEN!

YOU'VE GOT TO GET USED TO SPEAKING WITH OTHER BOYS NOW, WHILE THAT FOURSOME IS AWAY!!
WHEN THEY FIND OUT, THEY'RE SURE TO GET IN THE WAY. NOW'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!!
BUT I'M NOT LIKE OTHER GIRLS ..AND I'M ALREADY SEEING SOMEONE NOW.
RIGHT NOW THE PRIORITY IS TO GET YOU VACCINATED AGAINST OTHER GUYS, SO YOU CAN LEAVE THAT ASIDE FOR NOW.
THUMP
THUMP
OKAY?
LEAVE HIM ASIDE...? BUT I...
OKAY! GO FOR IT!
CLATTER
CLATTER
OH...
RIGHT! NOW...
KTUNK

すちゃ
CHIK
UM.. ASOU...
YES!!
OKAY, I CAN HEAR EVERYTHING FINE.
OVERPRO-TECTIVE
ALL SIGNALS GREEN!
HIDDEN MIC RECEIVER
OH!!
I DON'T MIND IF YOU JUST WANNA BE FRIENDS...
BUT IF YOU WANT TO BE MORE THAN THAT, I'VE GOTTA BE HONEST WITH YOU AND SAY I CAN'T.
YOU SEE...I'M DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL GIRLS... AND...

YES! MY PASSION CANNOT BE ABATED BY SUCH A TRIVIAL MATTER!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT! NO MATTER WHAT WAS IN YOUR PAST, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME!!
THAT'S NOT IT!!
COULD IT BE... THAT YOU WERE FORMERLY A DELINQUENT? JUDGING FROM THE WAY YOU SPEAK...
YOU SOUND MASCULINE!
DEL WELL, I SUPPOSE I WAS, BUT...
THAT DAY... WHEN I HAD FINALLY GOTTEN USED TO THIS SCHOOL AFTER TRANSFERRING HERE...
I MET YOU IN THE HALL, MEGUMI SEMPAI.
I WAS SO OVERCOME WITH EMOTION THAT I WAS FROZEN...AND COULD ONLY GAZE AFTER YOU AS YOU WALKED BY.

THAT'S WHEN IT STRUCK ME LIKE LIGHTNING ⇒BZZT⇐! YES, ⇒BZZT⇐!! I KNEW YOU'RE THE ONE FOR ME!!
WHAT AN OLD REFERENCE.
WHO ARE YOU, SEIKO MATSUDA...?
I TOTALLY HAVE THE CONFIDENCE, SO PLEASE RELY ON ME!!
NO, YOU DON'T GET IT? IT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME...
CONFIDENCE IN WHAT?
THEN WHAT IS THIS "TRUTH ABOUT YOU"?
URK...!
UH... THAT'S...
WELL, IT'S COMPLICATED

OH, NO! MEGUMI'S CONSIDERING SPILLING THE BEANS TO HIM!
IF SHE DOES THAT NOW, SHE'LL SCARE THIS VALUABLE CHANCE AWAY!
TCH
I'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO PURSUE HER A LITTLE LONGER...
HMM...
IS IT BETTER THAT I SHOULD EXPLAIN THINGS TO HIM...?
HE'LL NEVER KNOW UNLESS I TELL HIM, SINCE MAKOTO'S ORDERED THE ENTIRE SCHOOL TO STAY SILENT.
ガッ
CHK
OK! IT'S BEEN LONG ENOUGH... THAT SHOULD DO IT FOR TODAY!!
BAM
OKAY YOU TWO. CLASS IS ABOUT TO START SO LET'S BREAK IT UP!

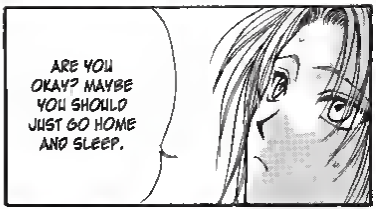
トルルルル
PRRRING
トル
PRRRING

...
...

ガチャッ
KCHAK
HELLO.

HO-HOH... SO SOMEONE IS ATTEMPTING TO WOO MEGUMI...
WELL, WE'LL DEFINITELY HAVE TO..
...PAY THIS GUY A VISIT!

ふぇーっくしゅ
HA-CHOO!


ARE YOU OKAY? MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST GO HOME AND SLEEP.

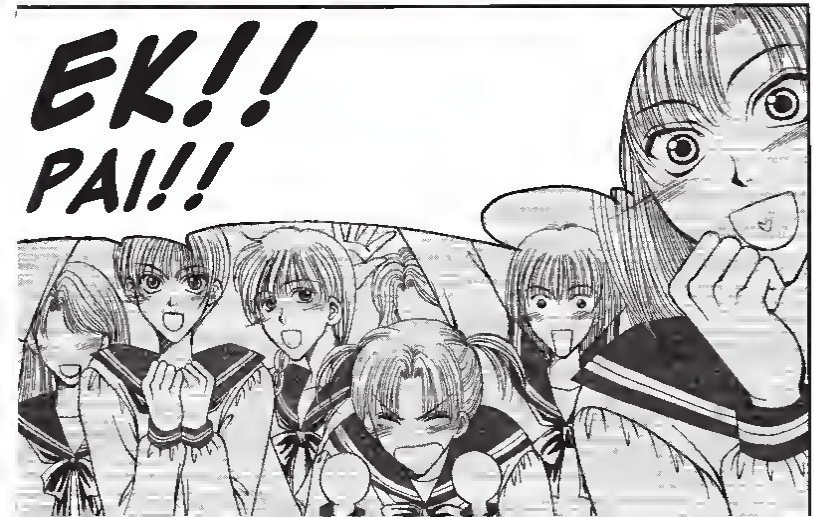
I DON'T KNOW... EVER SINCE LAST NIGHT, I'VE BEEN GETTING CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE AND SNEEZING.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
MAYBE I'VE CAUGHT A COLD
URRGH.
SUCH A HUGE SNEEZE!

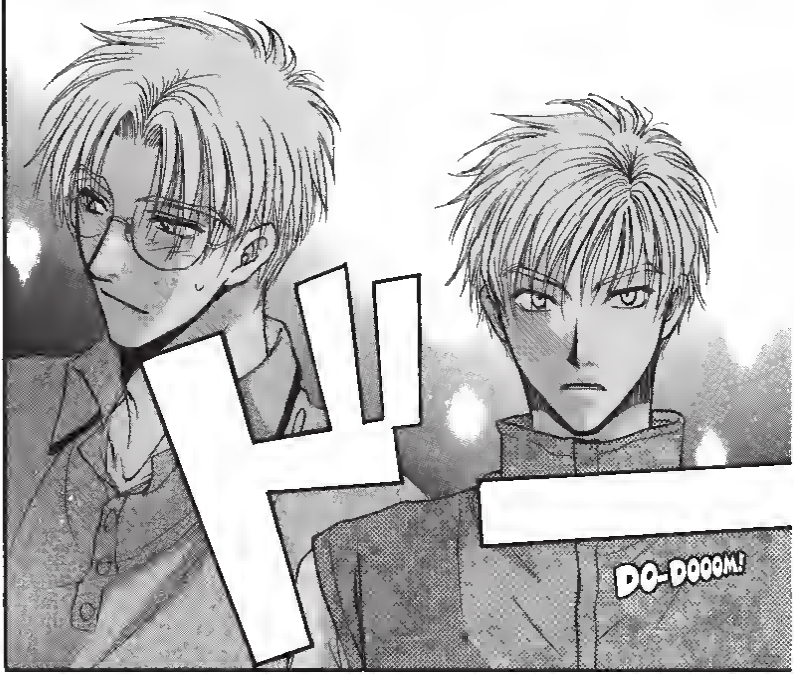
SEMPAI...

HUH? UH, WELL...I GUESS...
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME?! I'M SO HAPPY!!
SO KIND!

I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS GUY WANTS!
IT'S NOT A BAD FEELING... IT'S LIKE HAVING AN ADORING LITTLE BROTHER OR A BIG OL' PET DOG OR SOMETHING, BUT...
I'M SO HAPPY
HEH HEH
WAGWAG
じぃぃぃ
STARE
AND I FEEL KINDA GUILTY FOR NOT TELLING HIM THE TRUTH ABOUT ME...
ドキッ
JOLT
S...SEMPAI! WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
WHAT IS IT?!

MURMUR
MURMUR
EEEK!
NO WAAY!
BUT MAKOTO'S FORBIDDEN ME TO TELL HIM...
WHEN YOU STARE AT ME LIKE THAT
WHAT SHOULD I DO..?
HM?
I...
I...
!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
EEK! SEMPAI!
YAAY NO WAAY!
HMM
"THEM"..? YOU CAN'T MEAN...!
MAKOTO!
SO, SOMEBODY ALREADY LEAKED IT TO THEM ..I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER, BUT...
SHH...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN THIS WHOLE TIME?
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE? SUCH A COMMOTION!
OHH!
SEMPAI!
DON'T BE SUCH A TEASE!

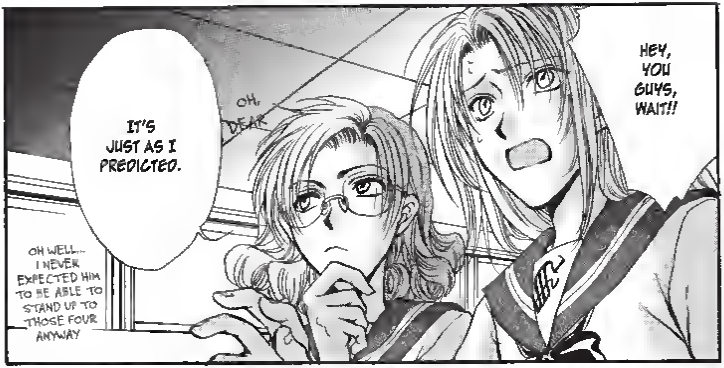

EK!!
PAI!!


DO-DOOOM!

EEEE
SEM
WHY'D YOU MAKE ME DRAW SO MUCH?! EIKI EIKI
THANK YOU SO MUCH MIKIYO-TSUCHI

GAPE...
WH— WHAT'S WITH THIS REACTION ...?!
I KNEW IT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I SEEM TO RECALL I JUST SAW YOU GUYS OVER VACATION RECENTLY.
HUH?! ARE THEY FRIENDS OF YOURS?
AND ANYWAY, YOU'VE ALREADY GRADUATED. QUIT HANGING AROUND CAMPUS LIKE YOU STILL BELONG HERE!
HEY, KEI! LONG TIME NO SEE.
OOH, SO HANDSOME!
SEMPAI—
EEK!

THAT'S RIGHT, BUT WE'VE ALSO GOT SOME BUSINESS WITH THAT GUY NAMED ASOU THERE.
OH, YOU! YOU KNOW WE CAME SPECIALLY TO SEE YOU
RIGHT?
I KNEW IT
HUH?
OH!
DRAG
ズルズル
DRAG
DRAG
LET'S MOVE ALONG
SO, IF YOU'D JUST ACCOMPANY US TO THE ROOF FOR A MINUTE, ASOU-KUN...
HUH?
HUH?


HEY, YOU GUYS, WAIT!!
OH, DEAR
IT'S JUST AS I PREDICTED.
OH WELL... I NEVER EXPECTED HIM TO BE ABLE TO STAND UP TO THOSE FOUR ANYWAY

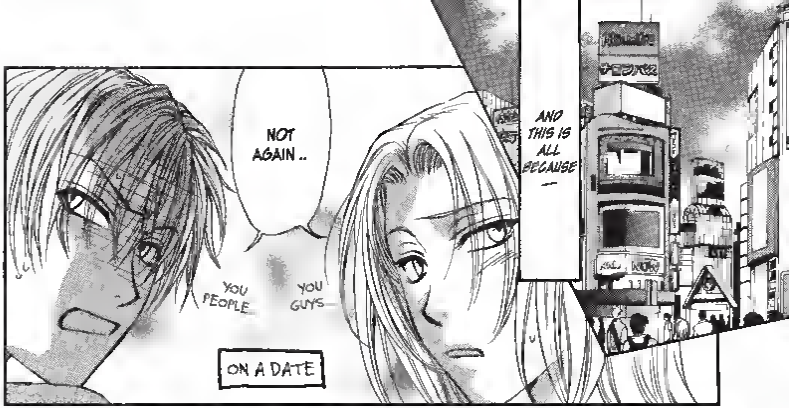
YOU SHOULD BE GLAD, RIGHT? THIS'LL END IT WITH HIM.
NOT AFTER DEALING WITH THOSE FOUR.
WELL... YEAH, BUT...
IS IT REALLY OKAY TO LEAVE HIM LIKE THAT...?

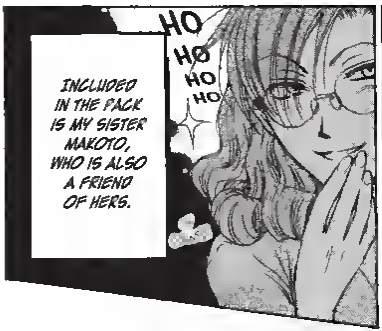
I HOPE THEY COME AGAIN ♥
KAWADA SEMPAI IS SOOO...
TOBA SEMPAI IS SOOO HANDSOME!
I ACTUALLY GOT A NOSE BLEED!
SQUEAL
I LIKE TACHIMA
LIKE WE SAID...
EVERYONE IN OUR SCHOOL KNOWS THAT. THAT'S WHY NO ONE HITS ON YOSHIKAWA SEMPAI.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S REALLY POPULAR.
WE WANTED TO TELL YOU SOONER, BUT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL BODY WOULDN'T LET US...
YOSHIKAWA SEMPAI IS CONSTANTLY PROTECTED BY THOSE FOUR GUYS: SHINMEI, TACHIMACHI, TOBA AND KAWADA.

SORRY, ASOU...
WERE THEY HARD ON YOU?
MEGUMI SEMPAI...
THEY'RE OLD FRIENDS OF MINE, BUT THEY CAN BE TOO OVERPROTECTIVE SOMETIMES.
I'M SORRY FOR PUTTING YOU THROUGH THAT.
I COULDN'T STOP THEM.
I DON'T CARE — SHE'S STILL HOT!

...I WON'T GIVE YOU UP!
EVEN WITH THOSE FOUR GUARDING YOU...
HUH?!
GRAB
SEMPAI!
WHA?
I'LL FIGHT TO THE END IF IT MEANS I CAN BE LOVEY-DOVEY WITH YOU, SEMPAI!!
AWWW YEAAH!
W...WAIT, ASOU! THAT'S NOT...
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
THEY'RE NOT THE PROBLEM... WELL, THEY ARE, BUT...
WILL THERE EVER COME A DAY WHEN ASOU FINALLY LEARNS ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT MEGUMI YOSHIKAWA?
THERE'RE A LOT OF OTHER COMPLICATIONS.
...ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING...?

365-STEP MARCH
I'M MIKOTO YUTAKA. CURRENTLY, I'M IN MY FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, LIVING ON CAMPUS IN THE DORMS.
MY SITUATION MAY SEEM FAR FROM ROSY, BUT...
...I'M ACTUALLY SEEING SOMEONE.
OH! AND IT'S NOT A GUY EITHER, OKAY?!
JUST BECAUSE IT'S AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL...
ばっ
WHIP
SHE'S VERY SWEET AND VERY BEAUTIFUL AND VERY, VERY POPULAR.
PHOTOS OF HER ARE CIRCULATING ON THE BLACK MARKET!
HER LIFE HAS BEEN VERY COMPLICATED AND SHE'S THREE YEARS OLDER THAN ME, BUT IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS NOW SINCE WE STARTED SEEING EACH OTHER...
...IN OUR VERY CHASTE RELATIONSHIP.
FRUSTRATED ABOUT THIS INSIDE!

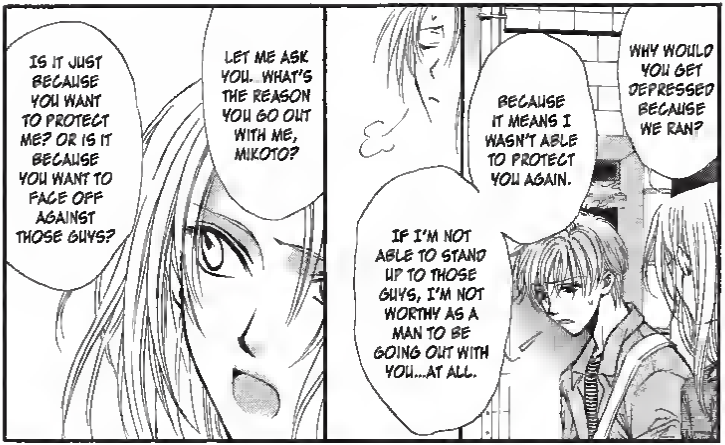




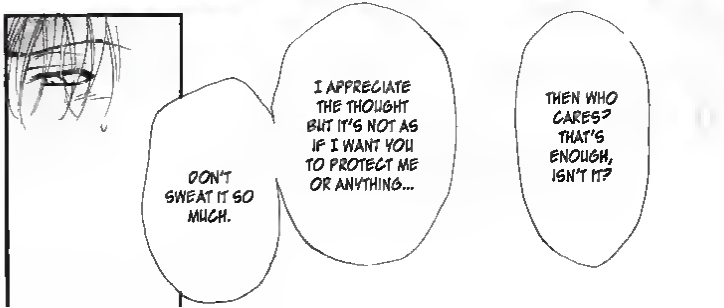
NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY TO MEET SECRETLY, THEY SOMEHOW FIND OUT AND MANAGE TO INTERRUPT US.

AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH THE FEW CHANCES WE GET TO BE TOGETHER!

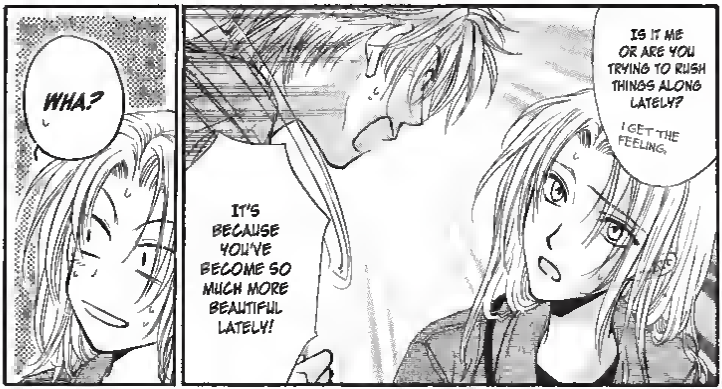
I'M SO ASHAMED OF MYSELF...
EVEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I STILL CAN'T STAND UP TO THOSE GUYS OR GET AROUND MY OWN SISTER...
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
POP
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM A BIT DOWN.
WE FINALLY SHOOK THOSE GUYS. DID THAT TIRE YOU OUT?
NO, IT'S NOT THAT.
IT'S JUST THAT ALL WE DID WAS RUN AWAY AGAIN...
...SO I JUST GOT A LITTLE DEPRESSED.
WORK
ANIMALS

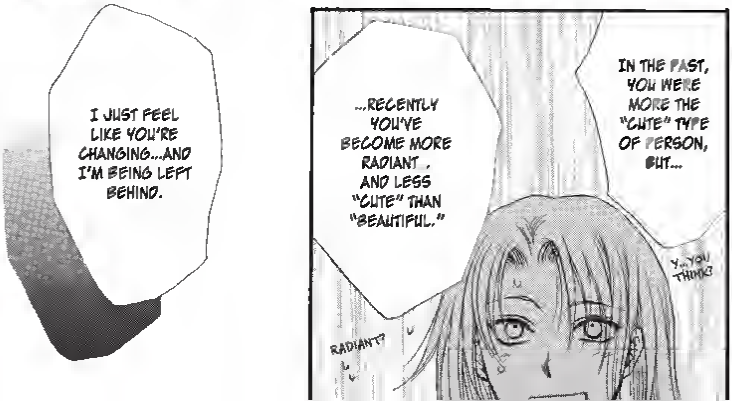

IS IT JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT TO PROTECT ME? OR IS IT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO FACE OFF AGAINST THOSE GUYS?
LET ME ASK YOU. WHAT'S THE REASON YOU GO OUT WITH ME, MIKOTO?
IF I'M NOT ABLE TO STAND UP TO THOSE GUYS, I'M NOT WORTHY AS A MAN TO BE GOING OUT WITH YOU...AT ALL.
BECAUSE IT MEANS I WASN'T ABLE TO PROTECT YOU AGAIN.
WHY WOULD YOU GET DEPRESSED BECAUSE WE RAN?

YOU SEE?
WHY WOULD I BE WITH YOU TO FACE OFF WITH THOSE GUYS?
THE REASON IS BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, MISS MEGUMI!
STILL ADDRESSES HER AS "MISS"!


DON'T SWEAT IT SO MUCH.
I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT BUT IT'S NOT AS IF I WANT YOU TO PROTECT ME OR ANYTHING...
THEN WHO CARES? THAT'S ENOUGH, ISN'T IT?

DOOOM
ずーん…
AND I'M STILL HAVING THOSE... PROBLEMS.. AT SCHOOL..
I'M STILL SHORT...
I'VE ONLY GROWN 3 CM AT BEST...
BUT I HAVEN'T PROGRESSED AT ALL...


WHA?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE BECOME SO MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL LATELY!
IS IT ME OR ARE YOU TRYING TO RUSH THINGS ALONG LATELY?
I GET THE FEELING.


I JUST FEEL LIKE YOU'RE CHANGING...AND I'M BEING LEFT BEHIND.
...RECENTLY YOU'VE BECOME MORE RADIANT , AND LESS "CUTE" THAN "BEAUTIFUL."
IN THE PAST, YOU WERE MORE THE "CUTE" TYPE OF PERSON, BUT...
Y...YOU THINK?
RADIANT?

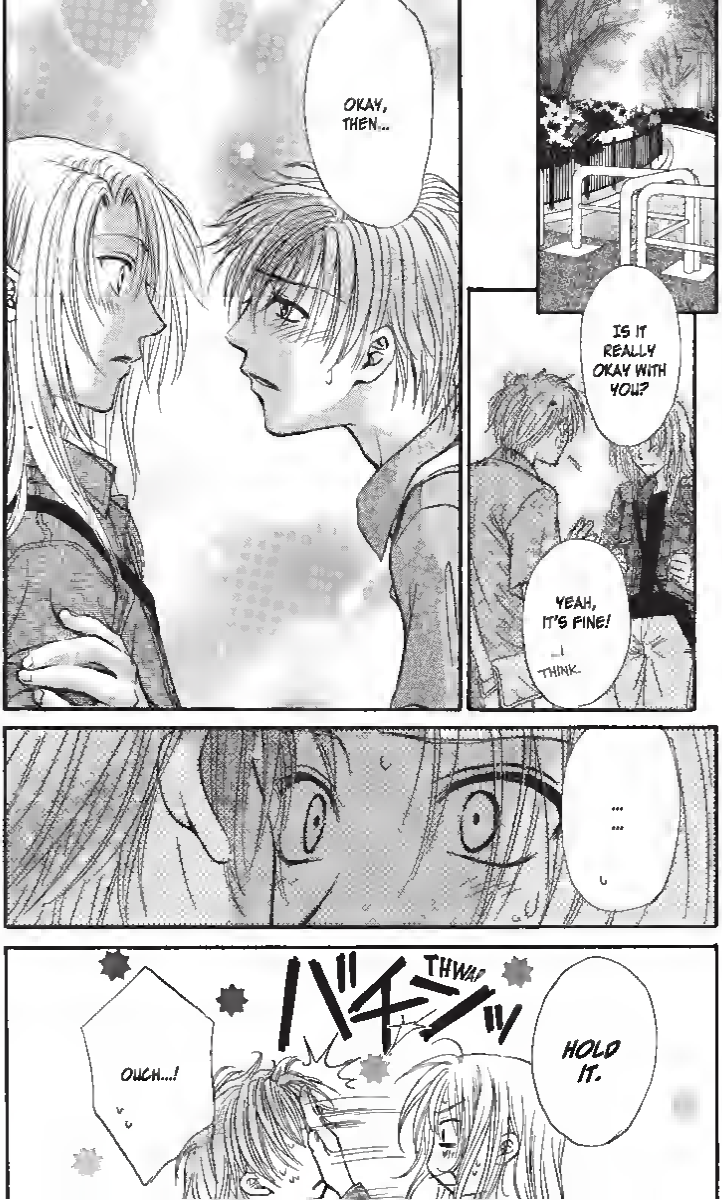
WELL, I CAN'T SAY WHETHER I'VE "CHANGED" OR NOT, BUT...
IF I HAVE, THEN..
SIGH...
GLARE
...WHY IS IT THAT YOU DON'T ATTRIBUTE MY CHANGE TO BEING WITH YOU?
HUH?
I'M NOT GOING OUT WITH YOU ON A WHIM OR ANYTHING EITHER, YOU KNOW!
HUH...
AFTER MIKOTO'S CONFESSION OF LOVE, THEY JUST AUTOMATICALLY STARTED DATING.
ENDLESS REPETITION
OKAY.
WELL, SEE YA
I JUST REALIZED SOME THING.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE'VE BEEN GOING OUT FOR TWO YEARS AND I'VE NEVER ASKED YOU...
DO YOU LOVE ME BACK, MISS MEGUMI?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
IF I DION'T, WHY WOULD I BE HERE WITH YOU NOW?!
TH... THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
HA HA HA HA.

...YOU WERE SO CUTE, I JUST TOTALLY WANTED TO NOOGIE YOU, AND BEFORE I KNEW IT I WAS...
HE HE...
ふふっ...
N... NOOGIE...? WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
SO MISS MEGUMI LOVES ME, TOO!
I C SEE... SHE LOVES ME...
LOVES... ME...
WHOA...
UH... UM...
SINCE WHEN...
WHAT ABOUT ME IS IT THAT UM...
"SINCE WHEN"?
WELL, AT FIRST..
わたフラ
わたフラ
I ALSO ADMIRED THE WAY YOU LOOKED SO STRAIGHT TO THE FUTURE, AND HOW YOU WORK SO HARD TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS.
YOU'RE KIND, AND YOU'RE NOT AT ALL PUSHY.
IT'S CUTE HOW YOU'RE SO HONEST!
AND UNLIKE ALL THOSE OTHER MEN, I DON'T FEEL THREATENED OR OPPRESSED AT ALL WHEN I'M WITH YOU!!
HUH?
HUH?
BUT ISN'T THAT JUST BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T REGARD ME AS A MAN AT ALL...?

BUT I THINK THE THING I LOVE BEST ABOUT YOU IS THE WAY YOU ACCEPT SOMEONE LIKE ME SO TOTALLY.
WHAT?
I'M A BURDEN BECAUSE I'M SO DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE...IT MUST BE TOUGH DEALING WITH ME AND ALL MY EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE, RIGHT?
BUT YOU NEVER COMPLAIN, AND ARE ALWAYS SO UNDERSTANDING...
THAT ALONE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO GAIN MY GRATITUDE, BUT ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'VE STAYED WITH ME ALL THIS TIME...YOU'VE NEVER GIVEN UP ON ME.
NO ONE CONSIDERS YOU A BURDEN, MISS MEGUMI!
YOU THINK?
WELL, EVEN SO...

...BACK THEN, EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS IN A RUSH TO CHANGE ME.
I UNDERSTAND THEY HAD MY INTERESTS AT HEART BUT TO BE HONEST, IT WAS TOUGH ON ME.
BUT YOU, MIKOTO, YOU WERE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH ME AT MY OWN PACE, RIGHT?
YOU NEVER PRESSURED ME, YOU NEVER FORCED ME TO CHANGE.
THAT'S NOT... I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE, THAT'S ALL.
I JUST NEVER HAD THE TIME OR THE OPPORTUNITY.
THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT...
...YOU MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.

I AM BEING LEFT BEHIND!
IT'S LIKE YOU'VE GONE FAR AWAY ON YOUR OWN...
AHHHH
SIGHH...
よりい...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
OHHH I KNEW IT!
DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?!
FINE! IF YOU INSIST ON SAYING THAT, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE PROGRESS TOGETHER!
フーン
HMPH
HUH?
LET'S HAVE A SMOOCH.
WHAT?!
A...ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YES!
BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...
I DO!
I DO I DO I DO! LET'S DO IT!!
WHY WOULDN'T I WANT TO?!


OKAY, THEN...
IS IT REALLY OKAY WITH YOU?
YEAH, IT'S FINE!
I THINK.
...
...
THWAP
OUCH...!
HOLD IT.

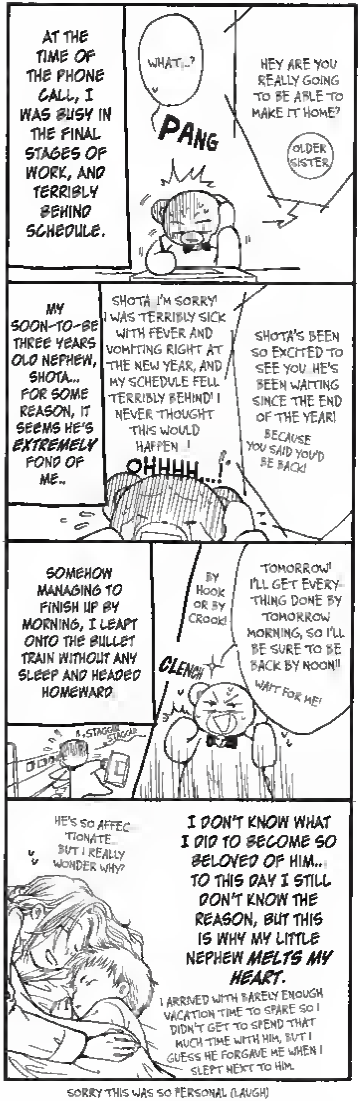
I KNEW IT... YOU DON'T WANT TO AFTER ALL.
DROOP
THAT'S NOT IT.
GRAB
ZOOM
LET ME DO IT.
I DON'T FEEL RIGHT BEING ON THE RECEIVING END
HUH...
SMOOCH
TO BE ON THE RECEIVING END WHEN I'M THE MAN...?
WHY...?
WELL, I GUESS IT'S OKAY...

AND DON'T THEY SAY THE ONE WHO FIRST LOSES HIS HEART LOSES THE GAME?

IN SCHOOL
AT LEAST ENOUGH SO THAT GUYS WON'T PURSUE ME LIKE THIS ANYMORE!!
THWA
ACK!
BUT I'VE STILL GOT TO MATURE IN A LOT OF WAYS!
I'VE GOTTA GET STRONGER!
WHAM
HACK

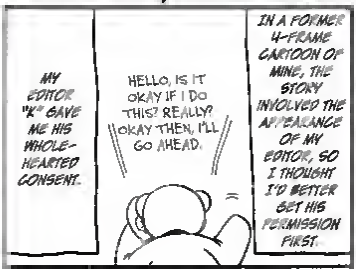
4-FRAME THEATER

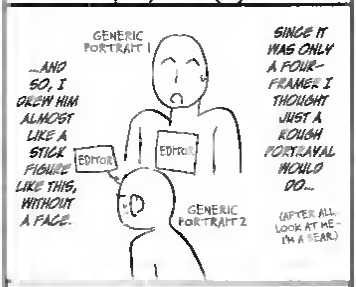
MY ADORABLE NEPHEW

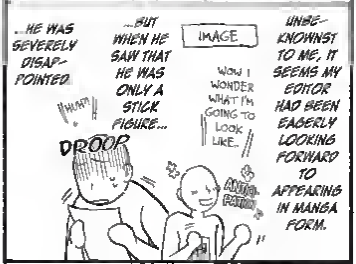

AT THE TIME OF THE PHONE CALL, I WAS BUSY IN THE FINAL STAGES OF WORK, AND TERRIBLY BEHIND SCHEDULE.
WHAT...?
PANG
HEY ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT HOME?
OLDER SISTER
MY SOON-TO-BE THREE YEARS OLD NEPHEW, SHOTA... FOR SOME REASON, IT SEEMS HE'S EXTREMELY FOND OF ME..
SHOTA, I'M SORRY! I WAS TERRIBLY SICK WITH FEVER AND VOMITING RIGHT AT THE NEW YEAR, AND MY SCHEDULE FELL TERRIBLY BEHIND! I NEVER THOUGHT THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
OHHHH...!
SHOTA'S BEEN SO EXCITED TO SEE YOU. HE'S BEEN WAITING SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR!
BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU'D BE BACK!
SOMEHOW MANAGING TO FINISH UP BY MORNING, I LEAPT ONTO THE BULLET TRAIN WITHOUT ANY SLEEP AND HEADED HOMEWARD
BY HOOK OR BY CROOK!
CLENCH
TOMORROW! I'LL GET EVERYTHING DONE BY TOMORROW MORNING, SO I'LL BE SURE TO BE BACK BY NOON!!
WAIT FOR ME!
STAGGER STAGGER
I'M SURE THIS IS THE ONLY TIME HE'LL BE LIKE THIS, SO I GUESS I'LL ENJOY IT WHILE I CAN (LAUGH)
HE'S SO AFFECTIONATE BUT I REALLY WONDER WHY?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I DID TO BECOME SO BELOVED OF HIM... TO THIS DAY I STILL DON'T KNOW THE REASON, BUT THIS IS WHY MY LITTLE NEPHEW MELTS MY HEART.
I ARRIVED WITH BARELY ENOUGH VACATION TIME TO SPARE SO I DIDN'T GET TO SPEND THAT MUCH TIME WITH HIM, BUT I GUESS HE FORGAVE ME WHEN I SLEPT NEXT TO HIM.

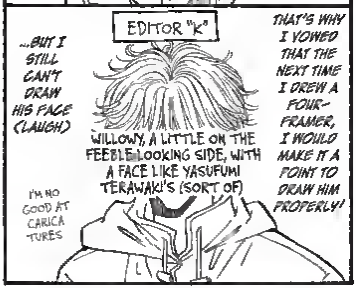
SORRY THIS WAS SO PERSONAL (LAUGH)

I'M SORRY, MR.EDITOR

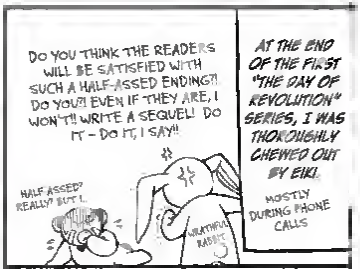

MY EDITOR "K" GAVE ME HIS WHOLE-HEARTED CONSENT.
HELLO, IS IT OKAY IF I DO THIS? REALLY? OKAY THEN, I'LL GO AHEAD.
IN A FORMER 4-FRAME CARTOON OF MINE, THE STORY INVOLVED THE APPEARANCE OF MY EDITOR, SO I THOUGHT I'D BETTER GET HIS PERMISSION FIRST.


...AND SO, I DREW HIM ALMOST LIKE A STICK FIGURE LIKE THIS, WITHOUT A FACE.
GENERIC PORTRAIT 1
EDITOR
EDITOR
GENERIC PORTRAIT 2
SINCE IT WAS ONLY A FOUR-FRAMER I THOUGHT JUST A ROUGH PORTRAYAL WOULD DO...
(AFTER ALL, LOOK AT ME- I'M A BEAR.)

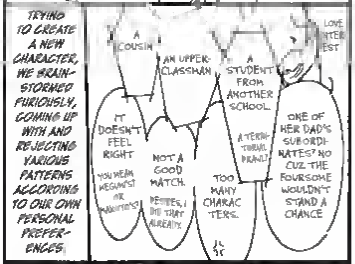

...HE WAS SEVERELY DISAP-POINTED.
...BUT WHEN HE SAW THAT HE WAS ONLY A STICK FIGURE...
IMAGE
WOW I WONDER WHAT I'M GOING TO LOOK LIKE.
UNBE-KNOWNST TO ME, IT SEEMS MY EDITOR HAD BEEN EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO APPEARING IN MANGA FORM.
HMM?
DROOP
ANIME EYES!

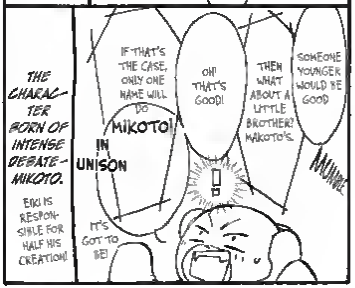

...BUT I STILL CAN'T DRAW HIS FACE (LAUGH)
EDITOR "K"
WILLOW, A LITTLE ON THE FEEBLE-LOOKING SIDE, WITH A FACE LIKE YASUFUMI TERAWAKI'S (SORT OF)
I'M NO GOOD AT CARICATURES
THAT'S WHY I VOWED THAT THE NEXT TIME I DREW A FOUR-FRAMER, I WOULD MAKE IT A POINT TO DRAW HIM PROPERLY!

THE BIRTH OF MIKOTO


DO YOU THINK THE READERS WILL BE SATISFIED WITH SUCH A HALF-ASSED ENDING?! DO YOU?! EVEN IF THEY ARE, I WON'T!! WRITE A SEQUEL! DO IT - DO IT, I SAY!!
HALF-ASSED? REALLY? BUT I...
WEARY RABBIT
AT THE END OF THE FIRST "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION" SERIES, I WAS THOROUGHLY CHEWED OUT BY EIKI.
MOSTLY DURING PHONE CALLS

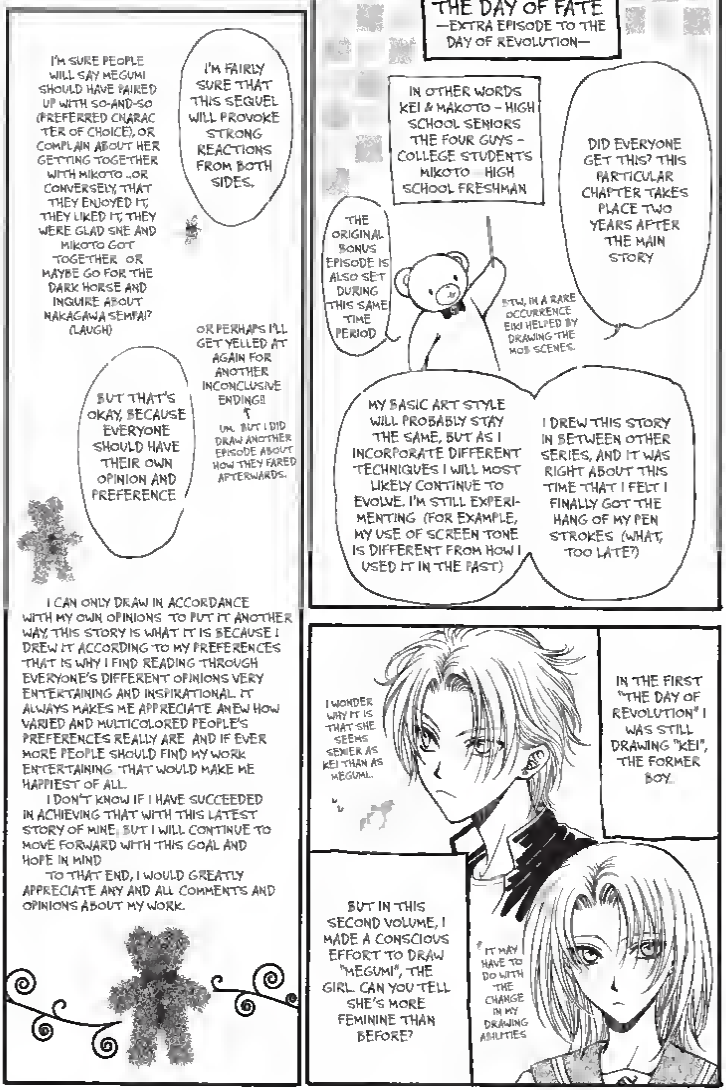
THEN JUST MAKE A NEW CHARACTER TO BE HER LOVE INTEREST.
THE FOUR OF THEM ARE ONE ENTITY, AND IT'S NOT AS IF I WANT TO WRITE A LOVE STORY...
BUT IF I PUT HER TOGETHER WITH ANY ONE OF THE FOUR, IT WOULD MAKE SOMEONE MAD!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
BUT I HAD MY OWN REASONS, TOO.

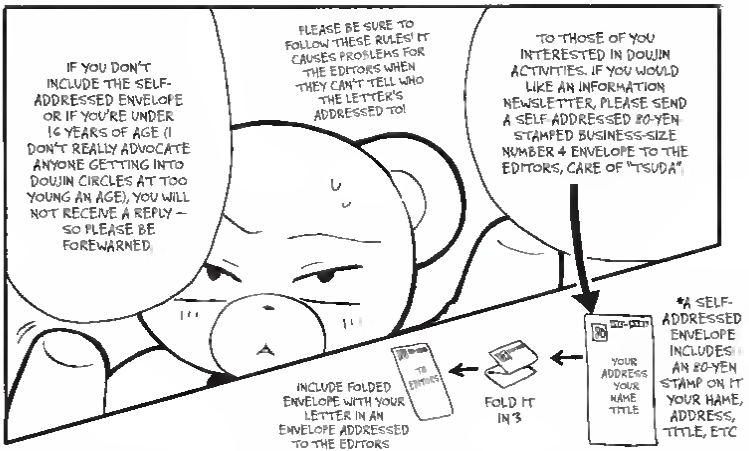

TRYING TO CREATE A NEW CHARACTER, WE BRAINSTORMED FURIOUSLY, COMING UP WITH AND REJECTING VARIOUS PATTERNS ACCORDING TO OUR OWN PERSONAL PREFERENCES.
A COUSIN
AN UPPER-CLASSMAN
A STUDENT FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL
LOVE INTEREST
IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT
NOT A GOOD MATCH.
A TERRITORIAL PRIMATE
YOU MEAN MEGUMI? OR MAKOTO?
PERHAPS, BUT THAT ALREADY...
TOO MANY CHARACTERS.
ONE OF HER DAD'S SUBORDINATES? NO CUE. THE FOURSOME WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE


THE CHARACTER BORN OF INTENSE DEBATE- MIKOTO.
EIKI IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HALF HIS CREATION!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, ONLY ONE NAME WILL DO
MIKOTO!
IN UNISON
OH! THAT'S GOOD!
THEN WHAT ABOUT A LITTLE BROTHER? MAKOTO'S.
SOMEONE YOUNGER WOULD BE GOOD
IT'S GOT TO BE!
WHINE

4-FRAME THEATER ✹ END

AFTERWORD
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU READERS' SUPPORT, THIS CONTINUATION TO "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION" SERIES CAME TO BE. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH
HELLO, MIKIYO TSUOA HERE.
PART 2!
BECAUSE EVERYBODY KEPT COMPLAINING THAT THE SERIES HAD ENDED WITHOUT CLOSURE, I WENT BACK AND CHECKED FOR MYSELF... ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT IT REALLY WAS AN INCONCLUSIVE ENDING! IT WAS A SHOCK TO ME, I CAN TELL YOU..
WHY..? AT THE TIME THIS SEEMED FINE I GUESS YOU ONLY REALIZE THESE THINGS WITH TIME...
OH, THEY'RE RIGHT. IT IS INCONCLUSIVE...
AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST VOLUME, THE LETTERS CAME, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, COMPLAINING/REQUESTING, "DO A SEQUEL TO 'THE DAY OF REVOLUTION'" EVEN WHILE I WAS DOING A SERIES FOR FAMI-COM!
WITH EIKI COMPLAINING REQUESTING LOUDEST OF ALL
BUT THEN
YES, IT'S TRUE. I EVEN DECLARED IT ON PAPER.
TO BE HONEST, AFTER THE END OF THE FIRST BOOK I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF CONTINUING THIS STORY
I JUST FELT THERE WAS A HUGE GAP BETWEEN ME AND THE FANS WHEN IT CAME TO THEIR INTENSE FEELINGS FOR THE INFAMOUS "QUARTET" (SHINME! AND THE OTHERS)
HMM...
THAT'S WHY I HAD THEM CHANGE THE TITLE IN MID-SERIES FROM "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION 2" TO "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION CONTINUED"
AND FOR THE RECORD AFTER THIS I REALLY HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF DOING ANY MORE OF THIS PARTICULAR SERIES THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER THINGS I'D LIKE TO DRAW SO..
I JUST FELT LIKE A NUMBER IMPLIES THERE MIGHT BE A PART 3, 4 ETC.
BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS SEEKING TO BETTER MYSELF...
WE DECIDED TO MAKE HIM A CUTE BOY WHO RESEMBLES MAKOTO.
AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, I HAD ALREADY HASHED OUT THE CHARACTER OF MIKOTO OVER HEATED DISCUSSION WITH EIKI, A FELLOW MANGA ARTIST.
*SEE "4-FRAME THEATER" FOR REFERENCE
LATER, THE DECISION WAS MADE FOR ME TO DO A SHORT EXTRA "...REVOLUTION" EPISODE FOR SOUTH MAGAZINE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE (ALTHOUGH IT WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF MY ILLNESS) AFTER THAT I JUST DECIDED I MIGHT AS WELL DO A FULL CONTINUATION OF THE SERIES WHERE I COULD INCLUDE THIS SHORT STORY.


THE DAY OF FATE
—EXTRA EPISODE TO THE DAY OF REVOLUTION—
I'M SURE PEOPLE WILL SAY MEGUMI SHOULD HAVE PAIRED UP WITH SO-AND-SO (PREFERRED CHARACTER OF CHOICE), OR COMPLAIN ABOUT HER GETTING TOGETHER WITH MIKOTO ..OR CONVERSELY, THAT THEY ENJOYED IT, THEY LIKED IT, THEY WERE GLAD SHE AND MIKOTO GOT TOGETHER OR MAYBE GO FOR THE DARK HORSE AND INQUIRE ABOUT NAKAGAWA SEMPAI? (LAUGH)
I'M FAIRLY SURE THAT THIS SEQUEL WILL PROVOKE STRONG REACTIONS FROM BOTH SIDES.
BUT THAT'S OKAY, BECAUSE EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN OPINION AND PREFERENCE
OR PERHAPS I'LL GET YELLED AT AGAIN FOR ANOTHER INCONCLUSIVE ENDING!!
UM, BUT I DID DRAW ANOTHER EPISODE ABOUT HOW THEY FARED AFTERWARDS.
I CAN ONLY DRAW IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY OWN OPINIONS TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, THIS STORY IS WHAT IT IS BECAUSE I DREW IT ACCORDING TO MY PREFERENCES THAT IS WHY I FIND READING THROUGH EVERYONE'S DIFFERENT OPINIONS VERY ENTERTAINING AND INSPIRATIONAL. IT ALWAYS MAKES ME APPRECIATE ANEW HOW VARIED AND MULTICOLORED PEOPLE'S PREFERENCES REALLY ARE AND IF EVER MORE PEOPLE SHOULD FIND MY WORK ENTERTAINING THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIEST OF ALL.
I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ACHIEVING THAT WITH THIS LATEST STORY OF MINE, BUT I WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS GOAL AND HOPE IN MIND
TO THAT END, I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY AND ALL COMMENTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT MY WORK.
IN OTHER WORDS KEI & MAKOTO – HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS THE FOUR GUYS – COLLEGE STUDENTS MIKOTO – HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN
DID EVERYONE GET THIS? THIS PARTICULAR CHAPTER TAKES PLACE TWO YEARS AFTER THE MAIN STORY
THE ORIGINAL BONUS EPISODE IS ALSO SET DURING THIS SAME TIME PERIOD
BTW, IN A RARE OCCURRENCE EIKI HELPED BY DRAWING THE MOB SCENES.
MY BASIC ART STYLE WILL PROBABLY STAY THE SAME, BUT AS I INCORPORATE DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES I WILL MOST LIKELY CONTINUE TO EVOLVE. I'M STILL EXPERIMENTING (FOR EXAMPLE, MY USE OF SCREEN TONE IS DIFFERENT FROM HOW I USED IT IN THE PAST)
I DREW THIS STORY IN BETWEEN OTHER SERIES, AND IT WAS RIGHT ABOUT THIS TIME THAT I FELT I FINALLY GOT THE HANG OF MY PEN STROKES (WHAT, TOO LATE?)
I WONDER WHY IT IS THAT SHE SEEMS SEWER AS KEI THAN AS MEGUMI..
IN THE FIRST "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION" I WAS STILL DRAWING "KEI", THE FORMER BOY.
BUT IN THIS SECOND VOLUME, I MADE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO DRAW "MEGUMI", THE GIRL. CAN YOU TELL SHE'S MORE FEMININE THAN BEFORE?
IT MAY HAVE TO DO WITH THE CHANGE IN MY DRAWING ABILITIES


IF YOU DON'T INCLUDE THE SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE OR IF YOU'RE UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE (I DON'T REALLY ADVOCATE ANYONE GETTING INTO DOUJIN CIRCLES AT TOO YOUNG AN AGE), YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A REPLY — SO PLEASE BE FOREWARNED.
PLEASE BE SURE TO FOLLOW THESE RULES! IT CAUSES PROBLEMS FOR THE EDITORS WHEN THEY CAN'T TELL WHO THE LETTER'S ADDRESSED TO!
TO THOSE OF YOU INTERESTED IN DOUJIN ACTIVITIES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE AN INFORMATION NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SEND A SELF ADDRESSED 80-YEN STAMPED BUSINESS-SIZE NUMBER 4 ENVELOPE TO THE EDITORS, CARE OF "TSUDA".
*A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE INCLUDES AN 80-YEN STAMP ON IT
YOUR ADDRESS
YOUR NAME
TITLE
FOLD IT IN 3
INCLUDE FOLDED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR LETTER IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE EDITORS
TO EDITORS

THERE WILL ALSO BE VARIOUS "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION" GOODS...OR RATHER, TSUDA BEAR GOODS, FROM THE FINE PEOPLE AT MOVIC!
• PLUSHY TOY
• BEAR-SHAPED MEMO PADS
• PENS
• MASCOT PINS
• DIE-CUT POUCH
ETC
ALSO, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT! A DRAMA CD OF "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION" WILL BE RELEASED AT THIS TIME I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS, BUT I WILL PROBABLY BE DOING ILLUSTRATIONS FOR THE CD BOOKLET.
HMM...IT'S "THE DAY OF REVOLUTION" ALL OVER THE PLACE
LET'S MEET AGAIN, NEXT TIME IN TAISHI ZAOU'S "KOI WA INAMONO MYOU NA MONO (LOVE IS A STRANGE AND WONDERFUL THING)"!
WELL, SEE YOU AGAIN!
ASSISTED BY
KAZUI KANZAKI
TAKAOMI KUJO
SAKI IORI
EIKI EIKI
(IN...OR SHIRAI I HAVE USED YOUR "HANGIKU BANANA" NAME)
THANKS FOR DOING THE HUGE MIB SCENE
Special Thank you!

THE BEST I COULD MANAGE WAS TO SEND WINTER GREETINGS TO THOSE WHO SENT ME NEW YEAR'S CARDS...
OF COURSE I READ ALL YOUR LETTERS AFTER THE EDITOR'S OFFICE SENDS THEM TO ME.. BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME IN MY SCHEDULE TO WRITE ANY REPLIES I'M SORRY...
DROOP...
KICK
THERE ARE A FEW OF YOU WHO WROTE, "PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND ME A REPLY!!" BUT I APOLOGIZE
I CAN'T...

AFTERWORD ● END

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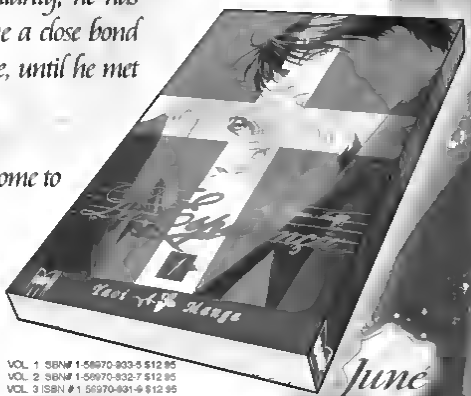

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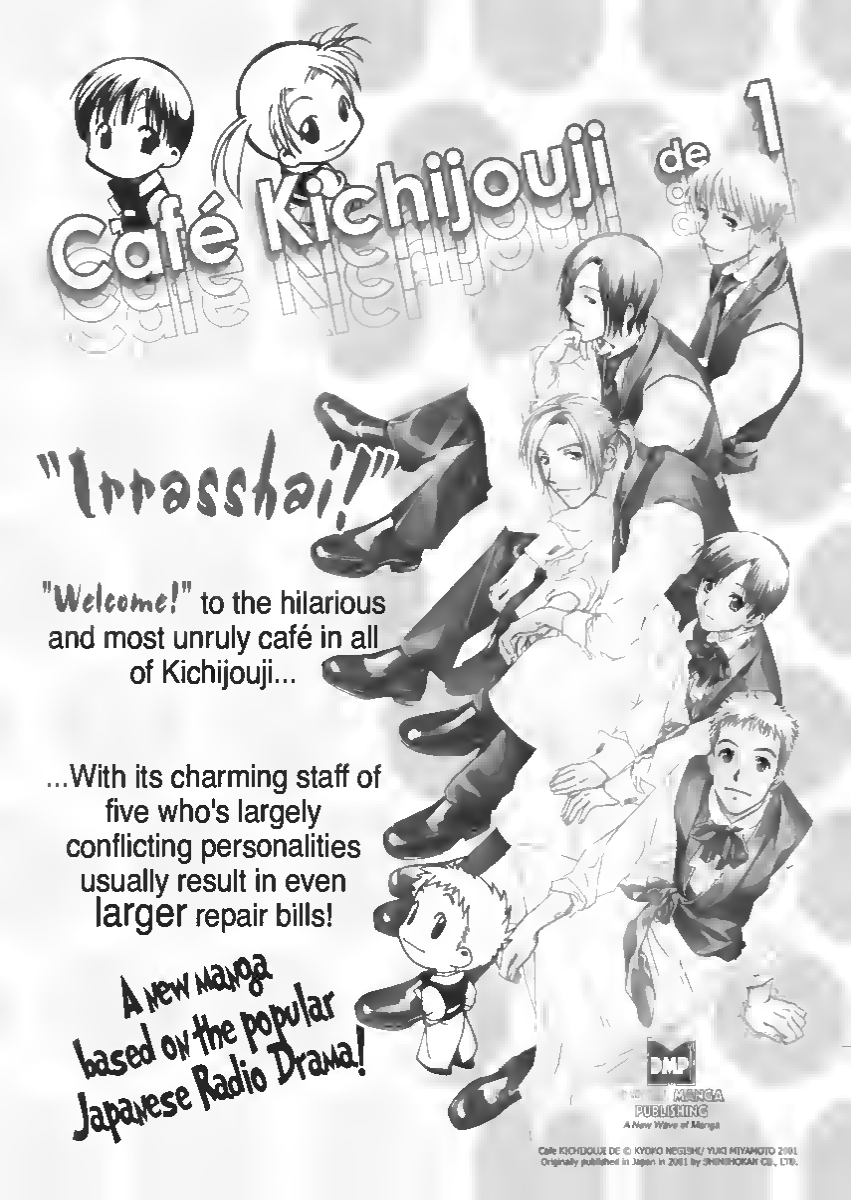

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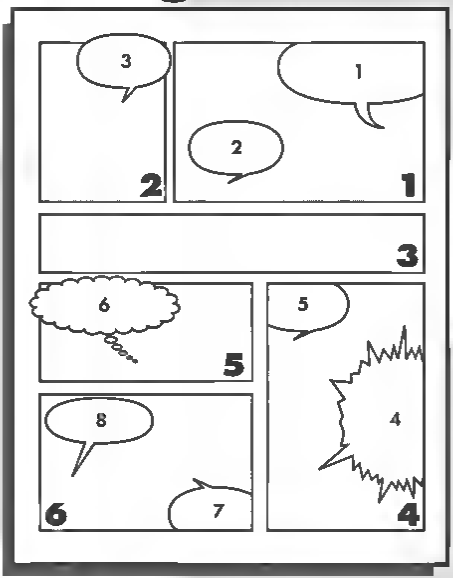

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